

SOCCER



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WEEKLY

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GST INCLUSIVE



Northern Spirit's "Elvis" look-a-like Pablo Cardozo shown in full possession against Stallions midfielder Grant Last.

SOUTHS CENTURY CELEBRATES TOP TEAM

By Bert van Bedaf

A century is a hundred years old and since South Melbourne has only been in existence for 43 years of that period, a team of the century might have sounded a touch over the top.

Nevertheless, it included eleven celebrated names from a shortlist of 40 and as it turned out the choice of players was reasonably spread over the "century", with current players featuring three times.

Defender Mehmet Durakovic and captain Paul Trimboli, who both started at South in the late 1980s, were among the three contemporaries. Goalkeeper Michael Petkovic, a starter in the mid-nineties, was the third.

Then there was John Margaritis and Jim Pyrgolios from the sixties. Alan Davidson and Jim Armstrong represented the seventies, although, it must be said, Davidson entered Souths history in 1979 and cradles the cusp of the 1980s. Steve Blair, Ange Postecoglou, Oscar Crino and Paul Wade represented the eighties.

South's coach of the team of the century was Manny Poulakakis, just ahead of Postecoglou.

Present national youth coach, Postecoglou was named team captain. Postecoglou is associated with South Melbourne's fourth championships as a player, captain and coach and he richly deserves to be the "man of the century".

"It is a culmination of a dream," Postecoglou said. "I've spent 20 years at the club and to be part of this is simply fantastic," he said.

Trimboli was thrilled to be part of the team.

"This means everything to me. This is probably the highlight of my career," Trimboli said afterwards.

"I always wanted to play at South Melbourne and be successful there. You always hear about the history of this club and the great players that have done great things for the game.

"I've always tried to emulate them and I feel very fortunate to have been picked as one of the players in Souths team of the century," he said.

The mere mortals (as well as the three demi-gods) who are currently only three points away from a finals position on the national soccer league ladder travel to Newcastle on Friday night.



Knights, Perth put NSL on Tassie Map

By Bert van Bedaf

The Melbourne Knights and Perth Glory created history last Saturday night by playing the first national soccer league match in Tasmania.

As the "home team", the Knights drew 1-1 with the league leader to retain fifth spot on the NSL ladder.

Following crowd disturbances at Knights stadium last season when the two sides played a semi-final, Soccer Australia ruled the Knights had to play this season's home game against Perth at least 100km from Melbourne.

The Knights chose Launceston, with stunning results. They not only snatched a thrilling draw against the powerful Glory, courtesy of captain-coach Andrew Marth in the dying minutes, they also gave national league soccer a magnificent Tasmanian debut with 5,324 fans turning up at York Park.

Soccer Tasmania chairman John McKenna was very pleased with the outcome.

The match was also watched by Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop and national coach Frank Farina. Newly elected Mayor of Launceston



Janie Dickenson also attended the game.

Marth said he was pleased with his side's performance and getting away with a draw against the league's top side. "We played some of our best football this season, especially in the first half," Marth said.

Knop had nothing but praise for the Knights' initiative. "We had a beautiful venue and saw a fast open game. Football was the winner tonight," Knop declared. Another happy man was Knights marketing director and architect of the Tasmanian experiment John Ovcacic.

"We regard this game as a success because of the interest it has created. It has stirred people's imagination," Ovcacic said.

"Our goal is to play a roster match in Launceston and Hobart (next season) and keep both cities happy. Getting a good crowd to this game (against Perth) will help that," he said.

The Knights are travelling to another island again next week. This time they go across the Tasman to visit the Football Kingz in Auckland, New Zealand. The Kingz are well out of finals contention, but they still pose a danger at home. Perth will be at home to Northern Spirit.

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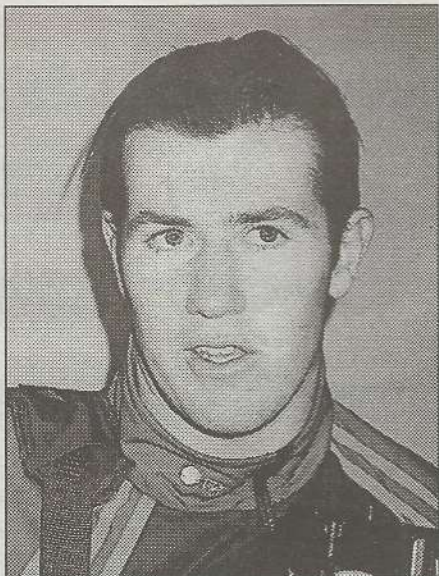
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Brett Emerton: Bound for England next year.

Emerton England bound in the near future

By Daniel Kuziow

Speaking on the SBS soccer program 'On the Ball' Feyenoord based midfielder Brett Emerton has confirmed he will move to England, after his Dutch club agreed to sell him at the end of the season.

"They (Feyenoord) have given me an

indication that they will be willing to sell me at the end of the season. I want to try and go to England some time in the future and I can't really see myself playing anywhere else".

It is no secret that a number of English clubs have shown an interest in Emerton and it now seems only a matter of time before a decision is made on where he will play next season.



Reid set to join the Wolves

Contrary to reports in last week's ABSW that Paul Reid was set to trial with Wolverhampton after Bolton pulled out of a English move, comes the news that the Wollongong midfielder is on his way back to Australia.

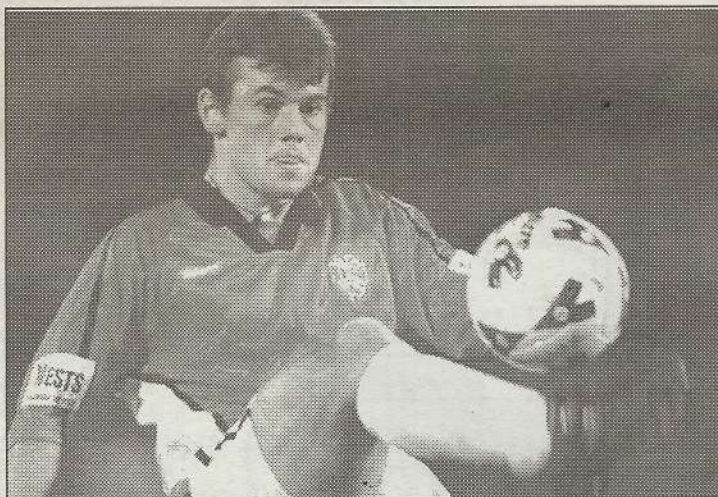
Wollongong Wolves chairman Joe Cachia commented on Reid's situation revealed; "I left countless messages for their chairman Phil Gartside. But in the end we just got sick and tired waiting for a response and the deal was dead".

Cachia also rejected reports that Reid was on his way to Wolves for tri-

als; "He's a contracted player and does not have permission from us to trial anywhere else".

The unlucky Wolves player has starred for the side in past years, and gained a lot of attention after Wollongong won the title last season for the second time in consecutive years.

A player who loves to run with the ball, his experience will be much needed once again by Wollongong who still have a glimmer of hope in making the semi-finals.



Paul Reid: Wolves star returning home.

Schwarzer's error gifts Hammers the points

By Daniel Kuziow

Mark Schwarzer was the culprit in his team's 1-nil loss to West Ham United after his poor clearance led to Freddie Kanoute hitting a 76th minute winner at Upton Park.

The Middlesbrough 'keeper came out to sweep up a loose ball, but scuffed his kick straight to the feet of Vladimir Labant.

The Czech passed to Kanoute who found the back of the net easily, with Schwarzer struggling to get back.

Meanwhile 20-year old Richie Garcia was an 87th minute substitute as West Ham manager Glen Roeder called on the Aussie to replace Steve Lomas.



Mark Schwarzer: Aussie keeper's blunder cost Middlesbrough the match.

Kisnorbo Fails to Win Leeds Contract

South Melbourne defender Patrick Kisnorbo failed to win Leeds over, in gaining a first grade contract.

Leeds United believed that the Australian U20 international was not big enough to play as a centre half in England, but suggested a right back role for the future in Kisnorbo's promising soccer career.

Kisnorbo will now continue his National League season with current club South Melbourne, and will surely take this overseas experience into his stride in becoming an even better player.



Patrick Kisnorbo: Failed to win a Leeds contract.

Corica helps keep League leaders scoreless

By Daniel Kuziow



Steve Corica: The new Walsall midfielder put in yet another terrific display for his new club.

Steve Corica's English revival continued as he gave another polished display for Walsall in their 0-0 draw against leaders Manchester City.

Fast becoming the Saddlers set-piece specialist, the Australian international again played a full 90 minutes on the right side of midfield.

Fellow Aussie Danny Tiatto bounced back to form as he claimed man-of-the-match honours in the Manchester City midfield in what was a hard fought contest.

Lazaridis sets up double in win over Hornets

By Daniel Kuziow

Stan Lazaridis laid on two of Birmingham City's goals in their 3-2 victory over Watford.

Darren Pulse opened the scoring for Birmingham after a Lazaridis cross was spilled by Alec Chamberlin in the

Watford goal. He later centred cleverly for Tommy Mooney to get the first of his double.

Mooney claimed his second after another Aussie, Socceroos captain Paul Okon was adjudged to have fouled Darren Carter inside the penalty area and Mooney stepped up to make no mistake from the spot.



Stan Lazaridis: Set up both of Birmingham City's goals.

STALLIONS TO HOST derby AGAINST POWER

By Daniel Kuziow

Marconi Stadium will ignite on Saturday night when the opening whistle breaks the evening silence in the Sydney derby between the Marconi Stallions and Parramatta Power.

Both teams are coming off narrow losses with Marconi feeling the pinch of the Northern Spirit's Pablo Cardozo after he scored a brace against the Stallions to register their fourth home win of the season.

The Power meanwhile were narrowly defeated 1-0 by the

travelling South Melbourne team with a strike from Vaughan Coveny and that loss on top of the 4-1 defeat at the hands of the Brisbane Strikers has left their top six prospects teetering on the edge.

Like all local derbies, previous form counts for nothing and club pride will carry each of the teams through the enduring 90 minutes.

Marconi will look to the effervescent John Maisano to lead their strike force and much of Marconi's success will be determined by the performances of Angelo Costanzo and captain Dominic Longo who must be solid at the back to quell the Power's charge at goal.



John Maisano: Goalscoring trend may continue against Parramatta Power.

For the visiting Power, Ahmad Elrich returns for this match after his trials in Norway and he will add that much needed flair in the Parramatta midfield.

Regular custodian Les Pogliacomi will again be missing in action, chasing that elusive European contract and his

place will be taken by youngster Liam Reddy.

Up front for the Power, the services of another youngster, 18-year-old Brett Holman will be called upon to ignite the visitors attack and his battle with the Marconi trio is sure to be a classic encounter.

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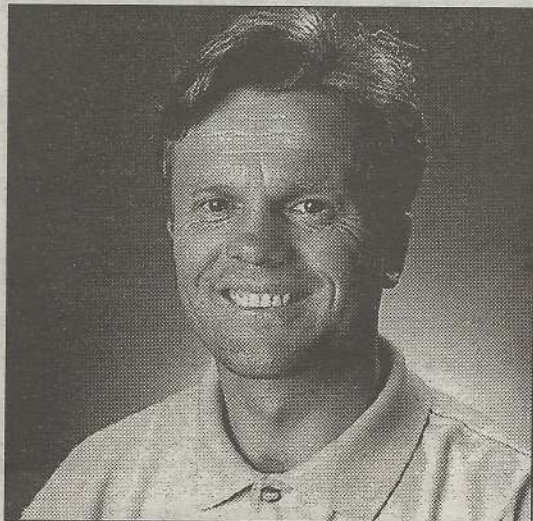
By Daniel Kuziow

Sydney United coach Branko Culina will direct his team from the grandstand for the rest of the National League Season after receiving a touchline ban from the NSL tribunal.

The decision came after an infuriated Culina confronted referee Con Diomis following United's 2-2 draw with Marconi on February 2, where his team conceded an equaliser in the sixth minute of injury time.

A Soccer Australia spokesman said Culina would not be able to sit on the team bench or the sidelines for the remaining seven matches of the season.

The former Sharks mentor is known for his tactician skills will be sorely missed on the United bench, but will surely carry out the same messages over to his players beyond the terraces.



Branko Culina: United's head coach forced to sit out in the stands for the remainder of the season.

Hagger jets out for Malaysian club

By Daniel Kuziow

Former New South Wales Golden Boot winner Mark Hagger has left Premier League outfit Blacktown City to join Malaysian outfit Johor F.C.

Hagger 22, will link up with former Canberra Cosmos teammate Jon Angelucci in Malaysia and said of his upcoming move: "I am looking forward to playing beside Jon again, and to the challenge of

playing in a professional competition like the M-League".

Hagger was brought to the attention of former Johor star Aytec Genc who recommended the striker to his former club and the deal will see him join Johor until June.

The ever ready striker had short stints in the National League with the now deceased Canberra Cosmos and Parramatta Power. A striker who loves to score, he will surely be one to look out for in the Malaysian league.



Mark Hagger: Off to Malaysian club Johor FC.

Swedish Trials for Griffiths and Young Aussie Duo

By Daniel Kuziow

Newcastle striker Joel Griffiths is off for a two-week trial with Swedish club IFK Gothenburg.

The move comes after Griffiths was given a two week suspension after being sent off in his team's 1-1 draw with the Olympic Sharks.

The striker has had an outstanding season to date, scoring a number of times for United which has seen them in second spot for the majority of the season.

Newcastle's general manager Jock Graham said that although the club had released the striker for the fortnight, Griffiths would "be required to fulfil his contractual commitments for the 2001-2002 NSL season."

Meanwhile, former Marconi youngster Ryan Manente has been invited for trials with Malmo. Manente has spent the last two months preparing for European tests and hopes to win a deal with the top-flight club.

As does another Aussie youngster, Kiro Grozdanovski, who will fly this week for trials with First Division Oster.



Joel Griffiths off to Sweden for trials.

West Ham youngster keen to stay a Hammer

By Daniel Kuziow



Australian midfielder Richard Garcia is eager to renew his contract with Premier League outfit West Ham United.

The 20 year old's contract concludes at the end of the season and despite not yet having agreed to a new deal is happy to stay in London.

"I have been here so long and it is just a matter of time before the contract is signed, it is just little things being negotiated and I don't see any problems at all ... I am happy at West Ham and it would be nice to play regularly in the first team for the club I came to" he told the club's official website.

Garcia made his Hammers debut in his side's 1-0 loss to Bolton at the Reebok Stadium and should make his home debut at Upton Park after being told to sit out this week's reserves match against Charlton.

"It is nice to come towards the end of the season and get a few games in the first team. Anyone in the reserves aspires to that and I've been lucky enough to push on"

This marks an amazing recovery for the Perth born starlet who suffered a cruciate injury to his knee that kept him out for 10 months while on loan at Leyton Orient, who admits he has come back bigger and stronger.



Richard Garcia: Aussie young gun loving the Hammer way of life.

HONOURS PROGRAM

Soccer Australia has nominated February 28 as the closing date for submission of names for the 2002 National Hall of Fame.

Persons nominated must have contributed to the sport on a national basis, either as a player, official, referee, coach or media. Players must have been retired from the game for at least three years to become eligible.

Nomination forms are available from Soccer Australia or from State Federations.

The forms must be sent to Soccer Australia for submission to the Honours Committee.

Soccer Australia is also appealing to any person who knows of the whereabouts of former Socceroo Gary Byrne.

Byrne was inducted into the Hall of Fame last year but his award could not be presented because of an inability to contact him.

If any person has a contact for Gary Byrne, please notify Soccer Australia.



Coach to stay, players to leave claim Football Kingz



The Football Kingz face a massive player exodus at the end of the season, after the toughest six months in the club's short history.

Kingz insiders insist a number of players coming out of contract are unlikely to accept new deals, despite suggestions current manager Kevin Fallon will stay on next season.

The club has found it tough in the National League, and currently sit in last position.

The Kiwi club, who earlier in the year, ended their services with New Zealand legend Wynton Rufer, are looking to finishing the season strongly, and hopefully start from scratch in next year's competition.



Kevin Fallon: Kingz coach unsure of his position, next season.

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Mitchell Dashes To Holland

By Mark Stavroulakis

Parramatta Power coach Dave Mitchell flew to Holland last week for urgent meetings with club officials from Feyenoord.

The former Australian internationals agenda at the Dutch club is unknown, but the Power squad will be without big 'Mitch' for two weeks.

The Parramatta head coach has left his two assistants, Stuart Munro and Lawrie McKinna in charge of the squad and no doubt has confidence that the pair can keep the squad in a top six position.

The Scotsman's contacts in the Dutch League were established well before his coaching career, as the former striker was a player in the Netherlands.

Feyenoord are the club that currently have an Australian player who is in heavy demand by many English and Italian clubs. Brett

Emerton is flying the Aussie flag in Rotterdam, and that's all thanks to Mitchell's contacts at the Dutch club.

The Power have a squad with enormous potential, as many young future stars are currently making the grade this year. Brett Holman is an exciting 18-year-old striker who featured in last year's U17 Joeys side.

The young striker has notched up a goal this year, and with more time on the park, could find himself with even more goals. Another exciting striker at the club is former Blacktown City product Adam Kwasnik. Like Holman, Adam has the ability to score and also in his teens, has a lot of time to develop as a better player. Pedj Bojic is another Power rising star, also a former U17 Joey, the young defender shows maturity beyond his age. Apart from these youngsters, Matthew Thompson, Luke Roodenburg and Michael Brown are also huge stars in the making.

Parramatta Power have had the services of Mitchell for the past two seasons, but this year, decided to end their relationship at the end of the season.

Midway through this year's National League season, Power announced Nick Theodorakopoulos as the new successor to Mitchell next year.

It was unfortunate that 'Mitch' was unable to bring much needed success at the Power, but at the moment, has a good chance of making the top six come end of the year.

In the past few weeks, the Power have seen players come and go for overseas exposure. Ahmad Elrich recently went to Norwegian first division club Lyn, where from reports has really impressed the staff there. Also Les Pogliacomi, the big Power keeper went to Muscat's Wolverhampton side for trials and hopefully a professional contract overseas awaits the custodian.

With 'Mitch' away for a few weeks, the Power will battle out a spot in the top six, and if the inevitable happens, it would provide a perfect sending off for Dave Mitchell at the club.



David Mitchell has gone to Holland to meet with Feyenoord officials.

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National Soccer League

Adelaide City Force 0 Olympic Sharks 3

By Allan Crisp

Finals bound Olympic Sharks inflicted the heaviest home defeat of the season on Adelaide City Force on Friday night when the 3-0 score line registered City's worst home hammering since 1978 when it crashed 4-1 to Brisbane Lions at Olympic Sports Field.

Troy Halpin and Tom Pondeljak were the supreme architects of a Sharks mid-field which kept a constant supply of attacking fodder flowing from the moment Halpin opened the scoring in the 19th minute.

Masterly Halpin was joined on the scoring list by former Sydney United striker Ante Milicic, who glanced in a fine 39th minute, Lindsay Wilson assisted header to give Olympic a 2-0 half time buffer.

It was left to an Adelaide lad to net the final goal of the contest, but unfortunately for the local fans it was former SASI teenager, now Olympic Sharks striker

Fred Agius, who netted his debut goal for his Sydney club.

Before the initial breakthrough the Force threatened to snatch an early goal as Scott Tunbridge fired a drive from the edge of the box in the third minute and Alex Moreira threw off his marker Steve Laybutt to clip the ball wide of the target two minutes later.

City captain Carl Veart raised home hopes further when he worked a clever interchange with Ante Kovacevic to create an opening for Lucas Pantelis, whose piledriver screamed over the crossbar.

However, the first signs that the Sharks would eventually maintain the league ladder status quo arrived when Halpin attempted a long-range chip, which cleared the Olympic goal.

That effort was simply a range finder for Halpin, who spotted that Daniel Godley was six metres off his goal line, so expertly lobbed the Force goalkeeper from 25 metres.

The Olympic opener came after the City defence retreated in the wake of a telling left wing run from Wilson, a stand-

off that spelled the beginning of the end. Five minutes later young City defender Iain Fyfe cleared off the goal line to deny Milicic, as the Sharks confidence lifted.

Tunbridge was booked by referee Eddie Lennie in the 28th minute for a tackle from behind on Wilson, who crashed to the turf screaming in agony.

Wilson hobbled through the remaining 17 minutes of the half, but was unable to continue after half time and was replaced by former SASI graduate Agius.

Before his eventual departure with a swollen right ankle, Wilson managed to supply a brilliant cross from the left flank for Milicic to nod home Olympics second goal.

The Sharks ended the half by forcing three corners as they menacingly circled the City penalty box.

City coach Zoran Matic introduced Ivan Karlovic at the expense of Aaron Goulding from the restart, while 17-year old Agius made his NSL debut from the 46th minute.

It was to prove to be a memorable start for the Joey squad player, who notched his last minute goal when he looped the ball into the City net after chasing a long pass up field.

Adelaide City's agony was compounded further in stoppage time when reliable defender Ante Kovacevic was yellow carded.

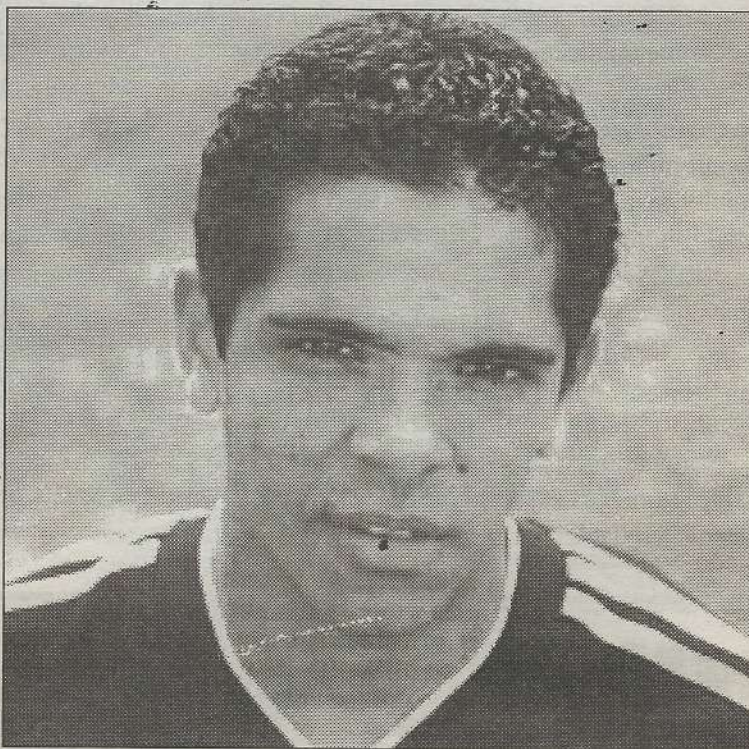
When the triumphant Olympic left the

stadium, Wilson cut a sad figure as he hobbled towards the team bus favouring his heavily strapped right ankle.

Despite the wonders of modern medicine, the PSV Eindhoven signing must be in doubt for the Sharks away clash with

Wollongong on Friday night.

Meanwhile, it was not just the final score, but the method and style of the victory that leads this scribe to hail Olympic as the most complete team to visit Hindmarsh Stadium this season.



Fred Agius: Olympic debutant scored the final goal for the Sharks easy victory.

Newcastle United 1 Brisbane Strikers 1

By Pano Tagaroulas

Another humid overcast evening was the prelude to mouth-watering encounter.

Third placed Brisbane Strikers were visiting a second placed Newcastle, that has defied its critics to maintain second spot in the league. A crowd of 10,351 was on hand to witness what promised to be an excellent spectacle.

The crowd was on its feet in the 2nd minute when a Robbie Middleby cross was collected by Esala Masi with his back to goal. The resultant layback was hammered over the bar by Milan Blagojevic from 25 metres.

A 6th minute strike by Esala Masi from a Robbie Middleby cut back opened the scoring. The Samba drums were in rhythm and celebrating the 1-0 lead to the home side.

Some Fernando Rech brilliance led to an opportunity in the 17th minute for Lawrence Drake who struck a bouncing ball well over from 10 meters.

A header by Peter Grierson from a Richie Alagich cross a minute later was misdirected over the bar.



Esala Masi: The Fijian international scored United's only goal.

A 21st minute penalty appeal for a push on Travis Dodd was turned down by Brett Hugo who was having difficulty keeping up with play due to the ball movement of both sides.

In the 27th minute United nearly doubled its lead when a Joseph Schirripa's curling cross was headed over by Esala Masi.

Brett Hugo incensed the crowd when an appeal from a felled Peter Tsekis was turned down. He had cut in on a desperate John Carbone who obstructed the advancing Tsekis by stepping across his path to the ball.

In the 37th minute Richie Alagich tested Daniel Beltrame with a 25-metre effort that was struck low to the keeper's right.

Both sides were clearly looking to play football with half chances falling at either end of the park.

Matthew McKay nearly danced through the United defence, with the bounce of the ball favouring him a shot in the 44th minute.

The pace of the game did not falter in the second stanza. A 50th minute header by Paul Foster from a Lawrence Drake cross, failed to test Daniel Beltrame.

Joseph Schirripa demonstrated his rating as a player of the future by using a combination of pace and skill to earn Newcastle a corner with a shot after the cut in.

Fernando Rech must have felt at home with the continual beating of drums and tried to inspire his teammates by providing Drake with a pass in the 59th minute. The resultant low cross, was flicked on by Paul Foster but managed to travel across Daniel Beltrame's line of sight without being collected.

In the 60th minute Peter Grierson played the ball to Fernando Rech who played it on to Matthew McKay's feet. The resulting shot on

target was tipped over by Daniel Beltrame.

This was followed by a Milan Blagojevic corner that was headed over by Peter Tsekis.

In the 63rd minute a set piece delivered by Milan Blagojevic to Esala Masi was headed into the side netting.

Another set piece at the other end was deflected off the United wall by John Carbone. The ball was gathered by the United keeper at the feet of an advancing Richie Alagich.

Chances continued to fall to both sides with a Travis Dodd run resulting in a Robbie Middleby strike over the bar.

The 70th minute saw the first change with Esala Masi making way for Daniel McBreen.

Immediately following Matthew Bingley created his own bit of South American flair by playing a one two with Daniel McBreen, resulting in a shot from 18 meters that sailed over the bar.

In the 72nd John Kosmina decided to replace Lawrence Drake with Adam Weber.

In the following play Brisbane would feel desperately unlucky not to have equalized. Michael Baird ran at a two man United defence with pace. On drawing the defender he released Fernando Rech, who's inch perfect cross was headed low by Paul Foster. A diving Daniel Beltrame palmed the ball away. The resultant scramble for the ball fell to Paul Foster who hammered the ball into a United player on the goal line.

The Strikers equalized in the 84th minute following a classy demonstration of superior skill by Fernando Rech who's shot was stopped on the line but fell to an advancing Michael Baird.

In the 90th minute, captain Matthew Bingley, was replaced by Mark Wilson.

The game was a dynamic affair with some excellent play from both sides.

Newcastle dominated play in the first but the class of Fernando Rech turned the game in the second ensuring Brisbane was well worth an away point.

Parramatta Power 0 South Melbourne 1

By Pano Tagaroulas

Yet another humid and overcast evening on this occasion at Parramatta Stadium for an encounter that could have been the last roll of the dice for Eddie Krncevic and the South Melbourne players for this season.

A loss would make the leap into the six too difficult even for a team still bristling with proven title winning talent.

The playing surface was a far cry from the mid season patchwork that frustrates most sides that share a ground with a winter football code tenant. A crowd of 2938 was on hand to witness a battle for a final six berth.

South Melbourne set the scene for the first half forcing former Socceroo captain, Alex Tobin into a foul in the 1st minute.

In the 6th minute a Power set piece was harmlessly struck into the reach of Michael Petkovic who released Massimo Murococa on a run down the left side of the field. Murococa released Con Boutsianis who crossed harmlessly into a waiting Liam Reddy.

Two minutes later the ball fell to an unmarked Vaughan Coveny inside the Power penalty area. His turn and shot sailing wide of the Power goal.

The Kiwi striker gathered a typical Mehmet Durakovic precision long ball in the 14th minute, 10 meters outside the Power penalty area.

He pushed the ball to the right of the defender and seemed to dummy to come inside. This left Coveny with sufficient angle to shoot low to the left of the keeper giving South Melbourne a deserved 1-0 lead.

A couple of minutes later some classy defending by Mehmet Durakovic defused a Steve Fitzsimmons cross. The Souths journeyman had the presence of mind and the superior touch required to pass the ball back to Michael Petkovic while

on his back.

Parramatta's best opportunity of the first half was the result of a well planned Lapsansky corner that found David Barrett's head on edge of box. The drilled header was flick on by Zlatko Arambasic over the South Melbourne bar.



Two of Australia's finest youngsters, Brett Holman (Power) shown battling against Massimo Murococa for the ball.

A 21st minute appeal for a penalty from a falling Eagleton failed to impress match officials and neutrals alike.

Some excellent lead up play from Steve Panopoulos and Paul Trimboli on 27 minutes led to a well drilled Con Boutsianis cross. Ray Sekulovski's header on the far post forced a save from Liam Reddy.

In the 29th minute a missile by Con Boutsianis nearly increased Souths lead.

Two minutes out from half time Con Boutsianis ran at the Power defence and managed to slip the ball to a rampaging Vaughan Coveny who hit the side netting.

Con Diomis produced the first yellow card of the evening on 45 when

Fausto Di Amicic hesitated on taking a throw in, preferring to defer to Nick Tolios.

The second half commenced with the Power displaying more commitment to keeping the ball leading to a Steve Eagleton shot on 47.

Con Boutsianis was the next recipient of some inspirational service from Paul Trimboli. However the shot failed to test the Power custodian.

Steve Iosifidis was the next recipient of the referee's wrath when a studs showing challenge received a yellow card in the 58th minute. Lubo Lapsansky curled the resultant free kick over the Souths bar.

A 60th minute a Con Boutsianis corner was tipped over the bar by Liam Reddy.

A double substitution by the Power coaching staff saw Steve Fitzsimmons and Zlatko Arambasic replaced with Matt Langdon and Brett Holman on 65.

An excellent set piece by Matt Langdon from the left side beat everyone including his teammates.

The substitutions seemed to work for Power with a couple of rapid chances falling their way including a Nick Orlic cross that was gathered by Michael Petkovic at an uncomfortable height.

Parramatta continued to test the South Melbourne right side through Matt Langdon.

In the 74th minute Paul Trimboli passed the captains armband onto Steve Panopoulos while making way for Nick Sabljak.

On 84 Vaughan Coveny was given a well-earned rest for his match winning efforts. The international made way for Peter Buljan.

With two minutes left on the clock Steve Panopoulos defused a potentially dangerous situation when he knocked a ball out for a corner while being pressured by two Power players. From the resultant corner David Barrett headed over.

Beyond the indicated extra time Steve Eagleton was released down the right hand side taking a touch before shooting into a rapidly advancing Michael Petkovic perhaps the best keeper in the N.S.L.

The points deservedly went to the visitors ensuring they remain in contention of a finals berth. What price that outcome four weeks ago?

National Soccer League

Melbourne Knights Perth Glory

By Daniel Kuziow

In an historic moment for the National Soccer League, 5324 converged on Launceston's York Park to watch League Leaders Perth Glory take on the Melbourne Knights in the first ever NSL match in Tasmania.

A dramatic injury time equaliser by Knights captain Andrew Marth salvaged a point for the 'home' team after the NSL's leading marksman Damien Mori had given the Glory a 40th minute lead.

The first chance of the match fell to the Glory's Brad Maloney after seven minutes. After being played through by Scott Miller his fiercely struck shot cannoned off the crossbar.

It was the 38th minute that the Knights threatened the Glory goal with their first real chance falling to Antonio

Da Costa. He found himself in space in the penalty area, but pulled his shot wide after being in a good position to hit the target.

Glory responded some 90 seconds later to open the scoring through Damien Mori. The Knights defence stood off the Brazilian midfielder Edgar Aldrichi as he advanced on goal. His pass shot was blocked by Martin John but Mori reacted first to the rebound and slammed it past Martin John in the Melbourne goal.

The league leaders continued its onslaught of John's goal, but wasted two equally good chances just before half time. Nick Mrdja slammed a shot over the bar after he had been set up by an elegant Brad Hassell header and on the stroke of half time Mori headed over the crossbar.

Seven minutes after the restart the enigmatic Miller ran unchallenged into



Damien Mori: The Glory star just can't stop scoring, his tally has gone to 14 goals this season.

the Knights penalty area before sending a goalbound shot that John deflected to safety.

For close to 70 minutes, the Melbourne team were all but out of the contest and only rallied late in the half when Da Costa again went close, before Andrew Marth unleashed a long range effort that whistled narrowly past the post.

It was left deep into injury time for the home team to rescue a point. Second-half substitute Alex Kiratzoglou wriggled past Glory wing-back Matt Horsley and from just inside the area sent over a hopeful shot that Marth managed to direct towards the Glory goal that beat Jason Petkovic in the Glory goal.

At the conclusion of the match Perth assistant coach Alan Vest said he would have settled for a draw before the kick-off, but felt his team had created more opportunities than the Knights, while Knights captain/coach Andrew Marth said his team had played some of their best football of the year, but was relieved the points had been shared in Launceston.

Northern Spirit Marconi Stallions

By Stuart Jones

Friday night at Spirit Park and Northern Spirit overcame their Sydney opponents, the Marconi Stallions, in a must win match for both teams.

The final whistle blew as the scoreboard read 2-1 to the home side. It included some of the best football seen at Spirit Park all season although the finishing of both sides was disappointing except for one piece of Cardozo magic.

The first half was a fairly even affair with Marconi's Michael Turnbull pulling off the only two notable saves of the half. First on the half hour mark Pablo Cardozo saw his magnificent free kick from 30 yards tipped over the bar by a fully stretched Marconi custodian. Then only a matter of a minute later Adrian Cervinski tested Turnbull again by shooting low at the far post. Again Turnbull met

the challenge head on with a low dive to his right.

Half time and 0-0 seemed a reasonable reflection of the tightness of the affair. Whilst the midfields had been excellent the final ball on the penalty box of both teams was nearly always poor. If a striker did get the ball there was seldom anyone there to support them.

In the 56th minute Pablo Cardozo again warned all and sundry of his skills by putting a long free kick just wide of the post. Two minutes later and he caused all sorts of havoc in the Marconi area. Micheal Beauchamp failed to clear a long ball and Cardozo snuck in behind him. However the ball seemed to be going innocuously out of play until Cardozo pulled it up just short of the byline and turned, shooting the ball into the top far side of the goal. It was an absolutely incredible angle to shoot from, and nestled in the back of the net to the amazement of most at the ground.

Marconi keeper Turnbull was very upset at his defence, as was coach Lee Sterrey afterwards who said "Michael was well beaten by Cardozo, and Angelo perhaps did not clean up as well as he could of, but you can't coach these sorts of things into players. Cardozo is probably the only player in Australia who could have scored from there".

Marconi then threw players more forward but failed to

make anything of chances, often the final touches of the front players letting the side down. Then in the 72nd minute the visitors found themselves further behind when Pablo Cardozo converted a penalty successfully. Brendan Renaud had been adjudged to have brought Adrian Cervinski down in the area by referee Simon Micallef (who managed to keep the Spirit fans on side this evening). It was Cardozo's tenth goal of the season and his efforts showed he was well and truly over his so called goal drought.

Spirit then had to hold off a ferocious Marconi counter attack. Royce Brownlie had a great chance in the 80th minute but took one touch too many in the area and the ball fell into the arms of Paul Henderson, the first time he had made a save all night. In the final five minutes of the match the visitors had four corners and inside injury time John Maisano found himself free in the area and blasted home to continue his own rich vein of goal scoring.

With virtually the last kick of the game Royce Brownlie could have got a point as he was free on the far post but he had an airswing at the low cross and the hearts of the Spirit fans started beating once more.

After the match Mick Hickman was fairly satisfied, "It was a must win situation. This gives us another week of hope that we will make the top six. We played reasonably well without dominating.

We did cause ourselves problems tonight, we did not keep possession as we should have, but overall we did alright." Lee Sterrey thought his side had more chances in the first half than his opponents but naively let his side down.

"You can't coach against naivety, you have to live the experience as a player. It is costing us at the moment but hopefully our young players are learning from the experiences."



Pablo Cardozo: The Spirit striker scored two and grabbed headlines for an unbelievable goal that gave the Spirit the win.

Sydney United Wollongong Wolves

By Joe Russo

Despite the efforts of diminutive striker Gabriel Mendez, Sydney United were not able to take advantage of their chances and Wollongong took home the full compliment of points.

Both teams were seemingly out of the race for a birth in the Top Six but this away win keeps a flicker of hope burning for the Wolves. Coach, Ron Corry, will have realised the luck involved in taking home all three points against an opposition that deserved a draw.

However, Sydney United mentor, Branko Culina, will have been most upset at his side's inability to convert their chances. Even in the 89th minute a Mendez cross-found Cummins Menapi, unmarked in the area, but his header was too central and was well saved by the Wolves goalkeeper.

The game got off to a slow start, both sides seemed defensive and the crowd, officially 3,062 but it seemed more like half that amount, hardly created any atmosphere. It was replacement Stuart Young, who came at half time for David Huxley, that scored the winning goal for the Wolves in the 70th minute.

Young's presence in midfield for the Wolves in the second stanza was the change that the team required. Wollongong's was a team performance with solid displays from Naum Sekulovski, David Cervinski, Alvin Ceccoli and Alex Castro.

Sydney United relied more on the individual brilliance of

Mendez, who was ably supported by Menapi up front, and Paul Bilokapic at the back was very reliable.

It was a Bilokapic shot in the 10th minute that brought out a great save from Dean Anastasiadis.

The first goal came in the 32nd minute when Aytec Genc failed to adequately clear a Sekulovski cross and Ceccoli's diagonal shot found 19-year-old Greg Sharland. The youngster couldn't believe his luck and neatly tucked away the ball to score his first ever NSL goal.

With the Wolves leading, Sydney United certainly didn't sit back on their laurels. If points were awarded for determination then the home side would have a bag full.

The equaliser came in the 43rd minute. A Wolves defender had blocked from Daniel Watkins but Nahuel Arrarte, with some help from a Wolves defender who deviated the ball, managed to score for Sydney United. Arrarte had taken advantage of some scrappy

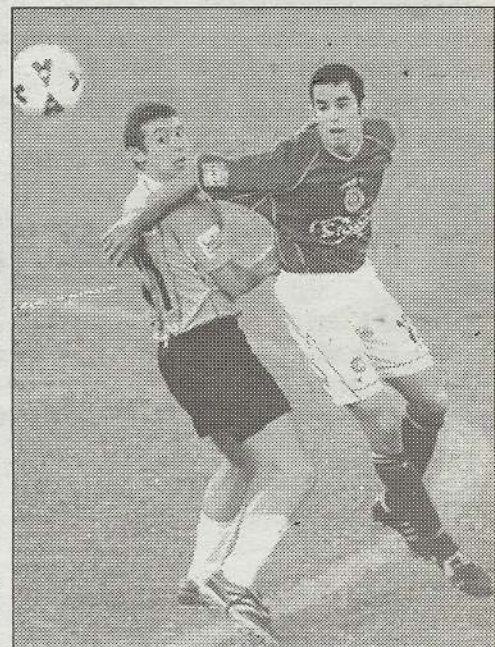
defending.

In the 56th minute Sydney United were unlucky not to receive a penalty when Ben Blake clearly brought down a runaway Menapi. The referee let it ride but it should have been a spot kick. At worst a free kick just outside the box if in any doubt as to the point of contact.

It was Young's goal that sealed proceedings in the 70th after Vince Savoca failed to adequately clear the ball. It was a shame for the former NSW State League defender because up until that point he was having a solid game.

Wollongong now face Olympic Sharks at home on Friday night and another win, at WIN Stadium, is imperative to keeping their finals hopes alive.

This defeat has probably confirmed that Sydney United are now only a nuisance value team for their opponents in the final rounds. Their own aspirations were dashed through their own lack of finishing, rather than been outplayed by the opposition.



United's Ante Deur is shown battling for the ball with Wolves youngster Naum Sekulovski.

Soccer Australia National Registration Fee Statement

Soccer is a game played by over 500,000 people in this country, ranging in ages from 5 to over 50, making it one of the most popular sports in Australia.



Ian Knop: Soccer Australia Chairman.

In the last six months, Soccer Australia's financial position has been well documented, with the newly elected Board recapitalising the code and commencing a range of initiatives.

One of these initiatives is an increase to the National Registration Fee (NRF), which has been in place since 1989.

The increase is only part of a much wider reform program which aims to strengthen and unify our sport at the grassroots level.

In addition, Soccer Australia is implementing for the first time a National Planning Forum for mid 2002, which will bring together all the soccer stakeholders to allow everyone to participate in the business planning process and to share sponsorship opportunities.

To help people understand why the NRF is necessary, Soccer Australia have compiled this report outlining the

current issues on the Soccer levy.

What is the National Registration Fee and how much is it currently?

The National Registration Fee was introduced in 1989 at the cost of \$1.00 per player, to help with the costs associated with running the National Teams which numbered 3.

The NRF was increased to \$2.00 in 1996, although \$1.00 is a rebate to the State Federations for all registered players under the age of 16 to assist with their Coaching & Development programs.

In 2002, Soccer Australia is responsible for eight National Teams and Soccer Australia is the sole financier of the eight teams, which consist of Men's Senior team (Socceroos), Under-23 (Olyroos), Under-20 (Young Socceroos), Under-17 (Joeys) and Under-15 (Young Joeys); Women's Senior team (Matildas) and Under-19; Futsal Senior team (5-a-side Indoor Soccer).

How much does Soccer Australia currently earn from the National Registration Fee?

In 2001, Soccer Australia received approximately \$395,000 from the NRF, however our National Team expenses for the same period were approximately \$5mil for the Socceroos and \$1.8mil for the other National teams.

What will be the final amounts of the National Registration Fee after the increases for 2002?

Juniors (up to and including 18y.o): \$6.50pp (increase of \$4.50)

Amateur All Age: \$12.00pp (increase of \$10.00)

All Age Contract Players: \$35.00pp
Coaches on Paid Contracts: \$35.00pp

Players, coaches and referees are to pay only ONE registration fee.



Socceroos: Soccer Australia is responsible and is the sole financier of the Socceroos.

How much will Soccer Australia net from the increase to the National Registration Fee?

The NRF is expected to net \$1.8 million per year.

What will the National Registration Fee be put towards?

Primarily the NRF is required to help fund the costs involved in supporting our National Teams and also our Coaching & Development programs, although initially the funds will be directed to servicing our current debt.

In 2001, SA spent \$5 million on the Socceroos and \$1.8 million on the other National Teams, with no

guaranteed annual revenue stream and stable capital base to support these programs.

What is the importance of the increase to the National Registration Fee?

There are several important reasons:

To assist recapitalise Soccer Australia.

To involve the national soccer stakeholders in the financial and strategic planning process of Soccer Australia.

To attract government funding through the Australian Sports Commission. Government attitudes Federally and

among the States and Territories is clear: you help yourselves and we'll help you.

The refinancing of the national body will boost sponsorship confidence, leading to a sharing of the sponsorship dollar on a per capita basis to all levels of soccer administration.

By maintaining our National Team programs, we will ensure future funding support for our State and Regional based Elite Player Development programs, thereby increasing the direct input of National Coaching and Development programs at the grassroots level.

To develop a national database of all soccer registrants

— an important pre-requisite for the attraction of funds from the Australian Sports Commission and potential corporate partners.

Implementation of the National Planning Forum for mid 2002, which will bring together all the soccer stakeholders to allow everyone to participate in the business planning process and to share sponsorship opportunities.

To demonstrate grassroots support of the code.

Soccer Australia Chairman Ian Knop and Finance Director Graeme Bowker have travelled around the country meeting with the various State and Territory Federations, Amateur and Junior associations and the response has been extremely positive to these reforms.



Under Soccer Australia reform, these youngsters will be forced to pay a \$6.50 registration fee, an increase of \$4.50.

What do you think about the Soccer Levy? Have you say ... write back to us.

Letters to the Editor

P.O. Box 155
Marrickville, 1475
approx. 300 words or less
Type print only

Zenon Caravella: Young Sharks Star Ready To Pounce



By Mark Stavroulakis

In this current National League season, the Olympic Sharks have started a new chapter in Australian soccer.

Promoting youngsters in our game this season has become more evident than past competitions in Australia, and the Sharks have led the way in this department.

One such talent currently show-casing his skills at Toyota Park is 18-year-old whiz kid Zenon Caravella.

This young rising star this year, has made a keen start to his soccer career by gaining an all-important first grade contract with the Sharks. At this stage, the young gun has made four appearances for the side, and is quite happy with

his recent performances.

"I'm really enjoying my football at the Sharks, they really play a great style that is also great to watch. Gaining a first grade contract was a dream of mine, all that hard work in my younger years was to get that vital contract and now that I have it, it's time to improve and make that next step in playing regularly," said the number 25.

Prior to his signing for the Sharks this year, Caravella was in the clubs youth side where it was there, people noticed this young man's ability to play the game.

"The National Youth League was the stepping stone towards my career in the first team. I've noticed in the few games I've played for first grade, that the game is much quicker and stronger. The speed of the game is also another aspect I must get accustomed to as time goes on," said the future Olympic star.

Coach Gary Phillips has spoken highly about young Zenon, and believes that come next season, this youngster will be hot on the heels of a starting spot in first

grade.

"It is safe to say that young Zenon has the quickest feet in the squad. His fantastic dribble and great skill are what makes him the player he is today. No doubt there are areas he needs to work upon, but I believe, through time, he will develop into a great player," said the former Tongan National Team coach.

Caravella in turn, has said that through his success this year, his owed it to coach Phillips, who's pushed him and taught him to become a better player. "Gary is not only a top coach, but a top guy as well. He's always giving the players advice on how to do things better, and always provides feedback to players," said Caravella.

Zenon also has something in common with Australian coach Frank Farina, it's his famous uncle. "Funnily enough Frank has never seen me play before. It's hard once people find out his my uncle, people judge me through him, that makes my job that much harder.

However, it makes me work that touch harder in my game, and I know myself that I am capable of playing on my own merits, not on someone else's," said the Sharks star.

'Zinger', as his known to his teammates made his debut at the start of this season against Newcastle at Marathon Stadium, something that will live with him forever.

"It was a huge buzz getting my first taste of football in Newcastle where we unfortunately lost one-nil. It was a real eye opener for me, I saw first hand how quick and strong the National League was," said Caravella.

With so many years ahead of the youngster, his aims are to develop more as a player, also to establish himself at the top.



Frank Farina: Zenon's famous uncle.

"I'm really striving to get a regular first team spot for next year. At this stage I'm pretty happy with myself, but I want to go that extra step next year in gaining a regular position. As for this year, I'd also love to see the team in the finals. We are travelling quite good, with more consistent results come end of the year, we will be the team to beat," said the confident attacking midfielder.

Like Zenon, so many other quality youngsters have made the grade to the top this season in the National League. With the new FIFA rule in place, not allowing players under the age of 18 to

leave our shores, it will only further a youngster's chance of getting a much-needed debut to further improve their game.

Caravella believes this rule had to be done; "I think if you're looking to go overseas, you must impress here first before heading off. I want to establish myself as a first team player here, before I think of going overseas, as the National League will give you that much needed experience," concluded Zenon.

At this stage, Caravella is in the process of developing into a future Australian international, but rest assured, that day is just around the corner.



Zenon Caravella: One for the future at the Sharks.

World Cup TV Coverage — Stuart Jones

Controversy surrounds the acquisition of the TV rights for the World Cup. Pleas have been made to SBS and Fox to step into the gap but both have difficulties they face in attaining the remaining rights.

Much criticism has been directed towards the Nine network but it must be remembered we live in a world of big business and Channel Nine won't be running their business just for soccer. They never said they were a soccer network, if they were would not they have used Andrew Harper much more on TV since he came on board last year?

For the last three World Cups we have all been privileged to have the quality team at SBS show every match. Those three Cups cost a total of \$10 million dollars in one of the best sports deals ever made. To show the impact money has on our game, it is reported Channel Nine paid \$9 million for the 16 live games they have alone. SBS were bidding for all or nothing, again unaware that others were bidding for partial coverage. This meant that Nine paid more money for less games, and SBS could not afford to pay even more for every match to be covered. So a non-soccer network won the rights.

There was criticism in this paper at the time the news came out, with many pundits concerned about Nine's true



Les Murray: SBS Soccer presenter doing his bit in obtaining the remaining 48 World Cup matches.

motives in gaining the coverage. Unfortunately at that time the bigger media outlets did not look at the future and warn of problems in the World Cup coverage that lay ahead.

Then Channel Nine picked up the AFL rights, and combined with League all of a sudden had little room for some of the big games in the World Cup. You will see a leaked report listing the games Nine may cover. You may wonder why games like Saudi Arabia v Germany are in and England v Sweden are not. If you look at the times of the 16 games they fit nicely around AFL and League coverage. However where there is a big AFL or NRL match those games look to take precedence. However that is not Nine's fault — they are looking at it from a com-

mercial standpoint — not from that of a soccer lovers perspective.

The really villains in this piece are FIFA who sold the TV rights to a group who could onsell partial coverage without any problems at all. The organisation that should be promoting the game worldwide has cost promotion in the game in Australia by their own desire to make the most amount of money. The one group that should have the love of soccer as there number one aim looks suspect in regards to TV rights.

There is no way partial cov-

erage deals should ever be made. Channel Nine should have only ever been allowed to bid as SBS did — for all or nothing. Now it is left to the old soccer station to make up the gap.

SBS now face a number of difficulties. If they gain the coverage and show every other game they are handing good ratings to the nine network. Why? Because the major games at the end of the tournament will be on Nine and by pushing the World Cup early matches they are laying a foundation for Nine to get good ratings at the end of the

tournament. One wonders if Nine relied on this fact, and assumed SBS would step in, thereby helping their own ratings. If it was the case it was a sound commercial decision by Nine.

Having said that the commitment SBS has shown over the years to soccer will overcome any of these factors probably, that and the fact the 48 other games will still pull good ratings. The amount of goodwill created will be enormous in the community as well. (Why did we ever pull the NSL away from them?)

Les Murray said to ABSW

this week; "As is well known, the Nine Network has bought the rights to 16 games of its choice. The rights to the remaining 48 games remain available and SBS is continuing to have discussions with the selling agency with the view of securing those rights. We remain hopeful of a successful outcome so that all games of the 2002 World Cup will be available free to air."

Fox Sports face even greater problems. When they purchased the rights for the last European Championships they had expected a certain buy rate (that is the amount of new people connecting to FOX).

However installation delays meant that many who wanted the Euros could not get

their FOX connected until after the tournament had begun and therefore people did not end up connecting. Again the World Cup is only just around the corner and they may have customer facing installation delays. If this is the case then buy rates would not be as high as had FOX had the rights a long time ago. Also if we look at Fox's commitment over recent times and it seems to have dropped. Where once they held the rights for most major League's in Europe they don't have them anymore.

Whilst their commitment to the Premier League in England is top class they lost the rights to the League and Cup in Scotland and this year they don't have the rights to the FA Cup in England either. Perhaps the expenditure on League and the new AFL deal have cost soccer big in this country. However FOX are still in negotiations it has been reported. Optus on the other hand have not been mentioned at all and with their recent cost cutting it is doubtful they would bid for an event like the World Cup.

So overall things look bleak for complete World Cup coverage, unless SBS can get the rights which I suspect they will end up with. It is a shame for finally we have kick off times in Australia that don't mean we all have to stay up from 1am through to 6am to watch the big matches in the World Cup. Hopefully enough people will complain to the real culprits, FIFA, so that such a situation will never arise again.

However in all this let us not complain about the wrong things, Channel Nine made a smart commercial decision and unfortunately we live with the consequences. The love of the game is no longer paramount to business, ratings and advertising money is.

Channel Nine's Schedule

Germany v Saudi Arabia	Sat June 1	Sapporo	9.30pm-12.00am
Italy v Ecuador	Mon June 3	Sapporo	9.30pm-12.00am
England v Argentina	Fri June 7	Sapporo	9.30pm-12.00am
Italy v Croatia	Sat June 8	Ibaraki	7.00pm- 9.30pm
Brazil v P. R. of China	Sat June 8	Seogwipo	9.30pm-12.00am
Cameroon v Germany	Tue June 11	Shizuoka	9.30pm-12.00am
Round of 16 Match 5	Sat June 15	Niigata	9.30pm-12.00am
Round of 16 Match 2	Sun June 16	Suwon	9.30pm-12.00am
Round of 16 Match 7	Mon June 17	Kobe	9.30pm-12.00am
Round of 16 Match 4	Tue June 18	Daejeon	9.30pm-12.00am
Quarter Final C	Fri June 21	Shizuoka	4.30pm- 7.00pm
Quarter Final D	Sat June 22	Osaka	9.30pm-12.00am
Semi Final Match 1	Tue June 25	Seoul	9.30pm-12.00am
Semi Final Match 2	Wed June 26	Saitama	9.30pm-12.00am
Playoff for Third Place	Sat June 29	Daegu	4.30pm-7.00pm
World Cup FINAL	Sun June 30	Yokohama	8.30pm-11.30pm



Letters to the Editor

Thank You ABSW

Dear Sir,
The Leichhardt Tigers Soccer Club would like to thank all at the Australian & British Soccer Weekly for your magnificent and greatly appreciated coverage of the world wide, prestigious Viareggio 2002 Coppa Carnevale.

The articles were informative, colourful and truly depicted the club's spirit and pride in its inaugural participation - an event that the club will participate in with honour on an annual basis.

Our U19s squad took part with zeal and enthusiasm and all the players have come back with a true appreciation of the game not to mention a



great lesson in football geography.

In particular our sincere thanks are extended to your chief writer John Economos for the superb coverage and his exemplary professional conduct on tour with the club. John too was also a great representative firstly on behalf of your publication and secondly the profile he gave and awareness on Australian Soccer in regards to other world-wide media at Viareggio.

You have confirmed yet again by the above support that you are indeed the No.1 soccer publication in Australia.

Anthony Raciti,
Honorary President.

Where is the loyalty in our game

Dear Sir,

The Idea of Loyalty extends from the beginnings of a player to the very top of Super-Stardom.

Over the past few days, I have heard in the television media, that negotiations concerning David Beckham's new contract with Manchester United have stalled.

These negotiations have gone so far, that the player is giving the management at Manchester United an ultimatum demanding that his every desire is met within the new contract, or he will be forced to leave the club.

I am perplexed at the idea of one single player having that much influence upon those people who are essentially his employer, especially in a club as large as Manchester United. As a multi-million dollar industry, surely this club has the potential to keep on functioning without one player on their books.

Added, if we all remember, the David Beckham of 2002 is a product of the 'Fergie' nursery and the Manchester

United Youth system. He was brought up through the ranks in the most protected of ways to become a regular first

grader, exploding with potential.

His rise to become England captain and a leading contender in last year's FIFA World Footballer Of The Year competition is the result of his global exposure in a Manchester United jersey.

The very idea of loyalty to the club that began his professional career and made him famous, has undoubtedly been lost in the mind of David Beckham, who appears willing to part with the very roots of his career to pursue personal and financial stardom.

As a role model for the many millions of young soccer players around the world and the public face of Manchester United, I believe it is necessary for David Beckham to show the same confidence in this club that they have shown in him.

More so however he must show a loyalty that is becoming more and more rare in the modern sporting area and show that love of the simple game is still intact.

D. Phillips,
Mascot NSW



David Beckham: Currently negotiating a contract with Manchester United.

KEWELL + ITALY = BAD CHOICE

Dear Sir,

After years of watching "On The Ball" courtesy of SBS, Paul Williams is, to my view, beginning to lose his credibility appearing TV with a shirt & tie with a pair of jeans and no socks is a bad enough image, but when he comes out and states that "Harry Kewell would improve his football in the Italian League" hogwash.

At present, France are world champions, roughly 70% of their national team earn a living in the English Premier League.

A glance at the results in the European Championships show that Spanish clubs rule the roost.

How Kewell would improve in Italy is a joke



Harry Kewell: Leeds United star is a wanted man in Italy.

unless two broken legs would make him a better footballer.

V. Heath,
Duffy, ACT.

Dear Sir,

I am delighted to see in last week's issue (Feb 19) that you have included on your front page the story of the NSL game about to be played in Tasmania and Perth Glory on Saturday night.

As the article suggests, it is the first time that an NSL game has been played in Tasmania. I for one am delighted at this prospect, as down here in Tasmania we are not exposed to enough high quality football.

As an avid soccer follower, I

think that not only Tasmania would benefit from having several more NSL matches played down here, but soccer in this country would also benefit because of the

wealth of talent that is yet to be exposed by the major bodies. Our State League competition is full of players of a high enough quality to be playing regularly in the National Leagues, but their exposure is limited because of our isolation from the mainland and the governing.

Many of my friends are also delighted at the prospect of NSL soccer finally coming to Tasmania. I have no doubt that many will be on hand to cheer on the two teams on Saturday (although there may be some friendly rivalry as we vouch for both the Knights and Glory)

The inclusion of the Steve Horvat article calling the NSL as boring has also only served

to liven up the proceedings and this extra publicity has served to increase the exposure of himself and his Knights' team in their next outing. Also the appearance of the Glory, Australia's premier professional outfit, to me shows the

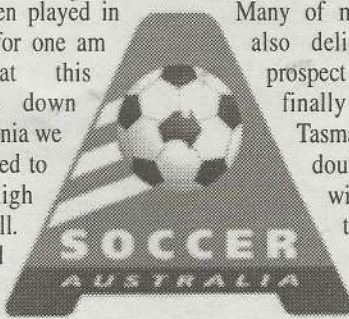
lengths that SA are taking to bring the right game down here and also the realization that soccer in Tasmania is just as popular and as good locally as anywhere else in Australia.

So in concluding let me congratulate Soccer Australia for their innovation and their history making initiatives. In Tasmania we are just as avid about soccer as those on the mainland-we have just as many people involved in soccer as in anywhere else in Australia and we are just as ambitious as one day having our own side gracing the National Soccer League. Thank you Soccer Australia for taking the first step in realizing the potential of Tasmanian soccer and giving us the incentive to dream of a National League Team.

G. Moore,
Launceston TAS.



Steve Horvat: The Knight's defender labelled the National League as boring.



OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

AUSTRALIA ACCEPTS HYUNDAI 45 NATION GLOBAL CHALLENGE

It started in Adelaide last Saturday, (February 23) and will spread across the length and breadth of our vast continent as the contestants continue to fight to be part of the big national showdown set for Sunday, March 17 in Sydney.

And, it won't end at Valentine Park on St Patrick's Day, because the action will continue in Singapore before culminating in Korea on May 30 to coincide with the opening match of the 2002 World Cup.

We are, of course, writing about the giant global competition known as the Hyundai World 5-A side Soccer Championship, a Futsal-indoor style tournament being played in the great outdoors by strictly amateur players.

In supporting the unique series, Hyundai, a major 2002 FIFA World Cup sponsor, is acknowledging the importance of amateur participation in the world game.

Hindmarsh Stadium was buzzing when Adelaide kick-started the tournament down-under, before Queensland grabbed the baton the following day at the South United Soccer Club.

Western Australia will have its day in the sun on Sunday, March 3 at Bunbury, Forest Park, followed by Victoria on Saturday, March 9 at Melbourne's Old Scotch Waverley SC.

Then its on to New South Wales on Sunday, March 10 at Sydney's Valentine Park, Glenwood, the aforementioned venue of the National Finals which will determine which team will progress to the Regional Finals in Singapore.

Sixteen teams were chosen in Queensland, NSW and Victoria to play in four leagues of four, with quarterfinals, semi-finals, finals and third place play-off.

South Australia and Western Australia are competing in 12-team competitions comprising four groups of three.

The national finals will be a 12-team format, with four teams from NSW, three each from Victoria and Queensland and one each from SA and WA.

Thereafter, Hyundai picks up the travel tab to the national finals, regional finals and the great Korean adventure when World Cup atmosphere can be savoured.

Details for the 5-a-side tournament insist that one player must be the goalkeeper, while, and one substitute only is allowed.

But the good news is that unlimited substitutions are allowed (interchange) and there is no gender bias.

Each game is of two 10-minute halves, with five minutes break for half time.

The playing area is 50 metres long and 32 metres wide, with goals 3m by 2m, supplying the target in which to slot the size 5 high performance match ball.

FORCE TO TRY FREEBIES



Adelaide City Force, stunned by their inability to attract anything remotely resembling reasonable home attendances this season, are considering offering free admission to their final game of the campaign against Sydney United on Sunday, April 7.

The idea behind the bold move is to uncover any latent soccer support that might be lurking within the State of SA.

If it's free, they just might take the trouble to turn up, seems to be the rationale behind this act of benevolence.

While there is undoubted merit in the plan, it is unlikely to provide any long-term solution, or indeed answer the vexed question, "Why are the fans staying away in droves this season?"

To genuinely test the climate, City should have tried the freebie experiment at a normal Friday night fixture.

Lets presume that a larger than average crowd attends Hindmarsh Stadium for the round 26 Sunday game.

If that happens, we would still be left pondering if the fans rolled in because they prefer Sunday afternoons, or if they turned up because there was no charge.

The Force attracted a 10,600 attendance for the final match of last season against Melbourne Knights a game played on Sunday with a 2.30pm kick-off.

The day and the time may have indicated that fans prefer Sunday afternoons, or the fact that the match was vital to the finals chances of both teams, may have been the major contributing factor.

Then again, the game was promoted extensively on commercial television at prime time, something that is not happening this season.

Solutions are difficult to find and become further clouded by the above average 6,700 crowd which watched the Force match against the less fancied Eastern Pride team on Anzac Day last season.

Does that indicate that afternoon games are preferred to night fixtures, or does it all come down to performance?

The latter factor undoubtedly has a major bearing on public interest. But, so also does effective marketing, promotion and advertising.

PIRATES SWAP CLUBS

Eleven Pirates have walked the plank from the good ship Port Adelaide Lion Soccer Club, but the good news is that eight new cutlass-wielding crewmembers have signed on for the 2002 voyage and there are prospects of more about to board.

Those jumping ship are Joe Calabria, Ross Calabria, Jim Stavrides (Campbelltown), Kon Antoniou, Bill Misailidis (Metro Stars), Chris Alagich, Colin Alagich (Northern Demons), George Tsonis, Stav Parissos (Olympic FC), Dom Musci (Enfield Falcons), Michael Paleka (Raiders).

The new recruits are: John Paul Chitti (Campbelltown), Matthew Villios (Cumberland), Bruno Giovanniello (Enfield), Damian Puyenbroek, Marc Talbot (Para Hills), Chris Koufalis. Pro Loizides, Vlad Tapia (White City), Adam Giancaspro, who had a stint at



Terry Smith: Former AIS graduate could join the Pirates if his current UK trials don't work out.

Northern Demons, is returning to Pirate Park, while AIS striker Terry Smith could join if his current trials in the UK don't result in a contract.

Meanwhile, the Ethelton-based club are continuing with their successful Pirate 100 program an affordable sponsorship package that offers people to sponsor a player for the season and receive benefits, which include tickets to the Presentation Dinner and a admission to all home matches.

The Pirate 100 Presentation Dinner to kick-off this season will be held at the European Convention Centre, 292 Findon Road on Wednesday, March 6.

Contact: Gene Lomman on 8341.7281.

THAT'S OUR BOY

The good judges in Adelaide who reckoned that Steven Townley had the makings of a crack hot player have been proven correct.

Modbury teenager Townley left the Jets last year to accept a US college scholarship and has been hugely successful in the land of the Stars and Stripes.

Last week he was named in the US All Conference team, the All Region team and the All American team which is the highest honour available in American College Sports.

Now, Steve, that's what we call "All Right."

SA SUMMER NIGHT SERIES

Quarter-finals

Adelaide Galaxy 7 (Hagias 2, Ferreira, Tsekinis, Dawes, McGregor, tog); Croydon Kings 0. Best Galaxy: Ferreira, Pezos, Russell; Croydon: Donovan, Besir, M. Woods.

Adelaide City 3 (Saraceno, Pellegrino, Sancilio) Playford Patriots 0. Best Adelaide City: Mercurio, Cirillo, D. Scarsella; Playford: Miller, Haralabakis, Kidd.

Metro Stars 3 (Day, R. Moore, Sordillo) Olympic FC 0. Best Metro Stars: Sordillo, David Menechella,

Smith); Olympic: Tsonis, Apostolopoulos, Manzarapis.

Campbelltown City 0 Enfield Falcons 0. After extra-time, Campbelltown won on Golden Goal scored by Lachlan Campbell.

SEMI-FINALS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

HINDMARSH STADIUM

Adelaide Galaxy v Metro Stars (6pm)
Campbelltown City v Adelaide City (8pm)

SA AMATEUR LEAGUE

Summer Cup

Salisbury Inter 0, BOSA 0; USC Lion 3, Salisbury Villa 1.

Eastside Jets 1, Fulham United 1; Elizabeth Vale 2, The Cove 0.

ABSWS SA correspondent, Allan Crisp, soccer promoter Angelo Picca, West Beach coach Peter Millar and The Advertiser soccer writer Meno Toutsidis can be heard on the 5RPH (1197AM) Marshall Thompson Homes/Pacific Real Estate Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-9am.

Former Australian international John Perin and SA and Blue Eagles striker Michael Brooks join Crisp each Sunday for the 5RPH SOS (Soccer On Sunday) program from 8.30am-9.30am, when the latest NSL, local and overseas scores are aired along with fast breaking news, views and interviews.



Zoran Matic: Force coaching hoping the crowds come back to Hindmarsh Stadium.

Joining Australia in the series are, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, UK, Austria, Greece, Holland, Switzerland, Norway, Finland, Belgium, France, Germany, Poland, Russia, Croatia, Slovenia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Brazil, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile, Uruguay, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, Barain, Canary Islands, South Africa, Malaysia, Singapore, Guam, Indonesia, Korea, USA, China and Japan.

Qualifying positions from the league phase will be decided firstly by points, then by goal difference and then by the number of goals scored.

If there is a draw at full time during the knockout phase, play will continue for a further five minutes each way, when the "Golden Goal" rule will apply.

If no deciding goal is scored, the outcome will be determined by a penalty shoot-out.

National Youth League

VIS finds its feet in Premier League

By Roy Hay

After a couple of rounds of the experimental arrangements by which the Victorian Institute of Sport plays matches against the Victorian Soccer Federation Premier League teams on Wednesday nights seem to be working well. In its opening round the VIS lost to Bulleen, but the learning process of the youngsters had begun. Sweeper Sammy De Vito learned quickly that things he could get away with the Southern Division of the Youth League would be punished by senior players like George Jolevski and Peter Tsolakis.

This week the VIS overcame Fitzroy City by three goals to two, a performance made more remarkable by the fact that its team included several fifteen year olds and one fourteen year old, Cameron Watson.

Another player to catch the eye was Chris Greechan, son of former Victorian star Kit Greechan. The young Greechan scored one of the VIS goals. The other two came from striker Michael Sham-Yuen, both from crosses by the excellent Christian Sarkies, whom coach Ernie Merrick tips as a future superstar. Joey's coach Angelo Postecoglou was also impressed by the performance and noted a couple of names for possible addition to future Australian squads. At the back Adrian Leijer, formerly of New South Wales, but more recently a country Victorian lad from Torquay near Geelong, has been consistently excellent, showing leadership qualities as well as top soccer skills.

The value of this Wednesday night match to the Premier League clubs is also consider-

able, enabling them to have some variety in their training, give match time to fringe players and allow those recovering from injury to get match practice. What is particularly pleasing is that some of the senior players involved are taking their coaching and development roles seriously, helping to impart their knowledge to younger players on both sides Aaron Healey, Assistant Coach at the VIS and a former scholarship holder, is also developing into a fine young coach. He has already passed the senior licence requirements and deserves recognition for his blend of sports science and practical skills, which he is contributing under the guidance of Merrick and the rest of the VIS team.

Given that Australia has had an enviable reputation at youth level in the past, it has to continue improving as the rest of the world is not standing still. This Victorian experiment, even though it is in its early days, would seem worth watching very closely. The fans think so, and they have been turning out in numbers for the games played so far.



Ernie Merrick: VIS head coach.

NORTHERN DIVISION

RESULTS RD 20

NSWIS	0	AIS	3
		(Danze 2', Bosnar 53', Wheelhouse 58')	
QAS	5	ACTAS	0
(Peltohaka 26', 89', Hilton 41' 60' 68')			
Brisbane Toro	6	ACTAS	2
(Stevenson 12', Rose 15' 36', Mikula 55', L. Fallini 66', Pilic 71')		(Barisic 81', Brunsell 90')	
Newcastle United Youth	0	QAS	2
		(Smit 65', Hilton 90')	
Northern Spirit Youth	2	Marconi Stallions Youth	3
(R. Griffiths 80', Muller 90' + pen)		(Bove 8' 90', Radulovic 68')	
AIS	1	Olympic Sharks Youth	2
(Anstey 71')		(Caravella 44', Macallister 84')	
Parramatta Power Youth	3	Sydney United Colts	0
(Kwasnik 31' 68', Gavaghan 80')			
Marconi Stallions Colts	1	NSWIS	1
(Mitic 27')		(Littlebury 88')	
Sydney United Youth	2	Wollongong Wolves Youth	5
(Ageyi 10', Moric 35' 71')		(Austin 1', Aleksic 30' 55' 74', Bartlett 71')	

NORTHERN DIVISION LEAGUE LADDER -

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Power Youth	20	15	0	5	63	21	45
Marconi Stallions Youth	20	13	2	5	52	19	41
Wollongong Wolves Youth	20	13	2	5	52	30	41
QAS	20	12	3	5	43	24	39
Sydney United Youth	20	12	2	6	46	21	38
Newcastle United Youth	21	12	2	7	42	32	38
AIS	20	12	1	7	47	28	37
Olympic Sharks Youth	21	8	6	7	38	30	30
ACTAS	19	8	3	8	34	48	27
Northern Spirit Youth	19	6	5	8	36	38	23
Brisbane Toro	20	7	0	13	37	61	21
NSWIS	24	4	3	17	23	67	15
Marconi Stallions Colts	20	2	2	16	14	56	8
Sydney United Colts	20	1	3	16	13	65	6

Round 21 Fixture

Wollongong Wolves Youth Vs Olympic Sharks Youth 5.00pm	WIN Stadium
Newcastle United Youth Vs Sydney United Colts 5.15pm	Energy Australia Stadium
NSWIS Vs Northern Spirit Youth 6.30pm	Valentine Sports Park
QAS Vs AIS 4.35pm	Ballymore Stadium
Marconi Stallions Youth Vs Parramatta Power Youth 4.30pm	Marconi Stadium
ACTAS Vs Marconi Stallions Colts 5.00pm	AIS Soccer Field
Sydney United Youth Vs Brisbane Toro 4.00pm	Sydney United Sports Centre

Name	Club	Goals
Anthony Danze	Australian Institute of Sport	16
Eric Anabalon	Marconi Stallions Youth	15
Jacob Timpano	NSW Institute of Sport	15
Matt Hilton	Qld Academy of Sport	14
Adam Kwasnik	Parramatta Power Youth	14
Joshua Rose	Brisbane Toro	13



Danze: AIS star currently leading the NYL Northern Division scorers list with 16 goals.

SOCCER WOMAN BY JANENE MAR

SAPPHIRES v ECLIPSE GRAND FINAL

NSW Sapphires were always odds-on to make this year's grandfinal, even before the season had kicked off. With their quality and depth of talent, it was hard to foresee them not claiming the top of the ladder position. The real question was who would they meet in the league decider.

Canberra Eclipse and Queensland Sting soon emerged as the two contenders for second spot, and they wrestled and jostled all season. Defending champs Sting were however not the team of last year, having lost their top class midfield engine room. Eclipse surprised everyone but themselves after finishing last the previous season.

Sting were the first to falter, going down in an upset loss to Adelaide Sensation in Round Four. Eclipse's weakness against the top sides was holding on to their lead and then conceding late goals to drop valuable points. This first showed its face in Round Three against Sting, then in Eight and Nine against Sting and Sapphires.

And so it came down to the wire, both needing to produce the goods in the very last round to take the coveted prize of a grandfinal berth. Canberra Eclipse was the victor.

NSW have successfully negotiated a fitting arena in which to stage the top domestic competition finale. The NSW Sapphires v Canberra Eclipse grandfinal will be held on Saturday 9 March at Parramatta Stadium in a doubleheader with the men's NSL fixture Parramatta Power v Perth Glory.

Like the successful grandfinal of last year, held after the NSL's Brisbane Strikers match at Suncorp Stadium, this promises to be another magnificent occasion and a number one promotion for the women's game. Great facilities, fantastic media and promotional opportunities, and a chance to take the game to a new audience - hopefully the game itself will also be a memorable contest.

WNSL GRANDFINAL

NSW SAPPHIRES v CANBERRA ECLIPSE
SATURDAY 9 MARCH
4.00PM KICKOFF
PARRAMATTA STADIUM
NSL: Parramatta Power v Perth Glory: 7.30pm

ROUND TEN

It was do or die for Queensland Sting and Canberra Eclipse in the last round of the season, the two battling for the right to take on NSW Sapphires in the grandfinal.

Queensland were a point ahead of Canberra, but had the daunting task of playing NSW. They had to win to guarantee second spot. Anything less, and they would only advance if Eclipse also dropped points. But there was some hope - Sting were the only team to have taken a point off the Sapphires this season, and in that 1-1 draw, they had also missed a penalty. Their mission was dealt a cruel blow with the injury to Alicia Ferguson the previous week, who is to undergo a knee reconstruction.

Eclipse's fate was now beyond their own control after conceding late goals and valuable points the last two games against Sting and Sapphires and dropping to third place. Even with a win, they would now still have to rely on Queensland losing. A Canberra draw and a Sting loss would bring the calculators out to separate the two, equal on points. Eclipse faced a Northern NSW Pride outfit who had suddenly found form and moved from last to fourth with wins in the previous two rounds.

In the end, Canberra came from behind to win 3-1 against a ten-man Northern NSW Pride, whilst fellow contenders Queensland Sting fell 3-0 to NSW to dash their grandfinal hopes.

CANBERRA ECLIPSE 3 (Amy Wilson 56m, 77m, 83m) defeated NORTHERN NSW PRIDE 1 (Hayley Crawford 14m) at West Belconnen Leagues Club, Canberra

Canberra Eclipse made a sluggish start in their must-win game against Northern NSW Pride and it wasn't long before they found themselves a goal behind. Northern had a great chance in the 2nd minute when Amber Neilson sauntered her way up the middle of the park and laid off to Katie Gill on the right, but her shot was parried away by the keeper.

Then in the 14th minute, fullback Lorissa Stevens attacked up the right flank. Her cross was blocked but the ball was pumped straight back into the goalmouth area where it was touched on and found its way to Hayley Crawford who finished with a great first-time volley from 12 metres. Nine minutes later, Pride almost doubled the lead, Gill beating a defender before her strike brought out a flying save by keeper Lisa Hartley to tip the ball around the post.

In the meantime, Eclipse were gradually settling into the game and started to hold the greater percentage of possession. Northern however remained dangerous on the break and were stronger in the 50-50 challenges. Canberra finished the half strongly, Peita-Claire Hepperlin hitting the underside of the crossbar with a first-time drive on the edge of the 18-yard, and Caitlin Munoz also unlucky with a great shot on the turn from 15 metres.

Eclipse carried on after the break as they had left off with some promising moves in attack. Then, eleven minutes after half-time, Northern were reduced to ten players when Stevens was red-carded for an off-the-ball foul on left flanker Sacha Wainwright who was starting to make dangerous raids up the left flank.

A minute later, Eclipse equalised and Northern were never to recover. A Wainwright cross was not cleared and Amy Wilson headed home from a crowded goalmouth. Gill Thomson almost added another for Canberra two minutes later, her shot hitting the bottom of the post.

Wilson then gave Canberra the all-important lead in the 77th minute. Wainwright on the left opted for the short ball inside to Wilson who drove home from 15 metres. Eclipse made sure of the win seven minutes later when Rhian Davies crossed from the right. Caitlin Munoz met it with a fantastic side volley which struck the underside of the

bar and bounced down. Wilson put the loose ball in over the line to celebrate her hatrick and the crucial win.

Eclipse - Hartley, Borucinski (D Hepperlin 85), Starr, Taylor, Davies, P Hepperlin, Wainwright, Karp, Thomson, Wilson, Munoz (Lockhart 85).

Pride - Betteridge, Attwill, Dunne, Shepherd, Stevens, Ingles, Amber Neilson, Colthorpe, McMinn, Gill (Tristram 62), Crawford.

NSW SAPPHIRES 3 (Kelly Golebiowski 36m, Heather Garriock 66m, Alicia Cavanagh 93+m) d QUEENSLAND STING 0 at Valentine Sports Park, Sydney

SAPPHIRES - Kell, Tann, Warrenner, Gilbert, Garriock, Peters, Davison (Ledbrook 75), Kimber, Carney, Golebiowski, Cavanagh.

STING - Beattie, Bartlett, Grant (Williams 88), Garven (Cusack 77), Reuter, McShea, Hohne (Nolan 62), Harch, Mann, Mitchell (Canham 67), Thomas.

THIS MATCH REPORT APPEARS ON THE NSW PAGES

ADELAIDE SENSATION 4 (Lia Augimeri 18m, 44m, 46m, Lisa De Vanna 70m) d VICTORIA VISION 1 (Belinda Pacella 92+m) at Camden Sports Complex, Adelaide

Adelaide Sensation were in danger of finishing in last place going into this game but produced the goods on the day in emphatic style against a depleted and inexperienced Victoria Vision, this time also missing the suspended Selin Kuralay.

Sensation comfortably won 4-1 to send them back to a fourth place finish for the season. Adelaide dominated throughout, their strike pair of the powerful Lia Augimeri and speedy Lisa De Vanna causing plenty of headaches for the Vision defence.

Augimeri was rewarded with a hatrick, opening with a header in the 18th minute. Vision's Louisa Bisby had a couple of unsuccessful attempts on goal, one which skimmed the crossbar. Augimeri then hit the post before she scored a minute either side of half-time. Just before the break, a

Bernadette Madden cross was met with a cracking header by Augimeri, the keeper getting her hands to the shot but it looped up and in. To open the second half, Augimeri scored her third with the head after Leanne Slater made a solo raid from defence to attack and crossed high to the far post.

Vision's Sarah Groenewald had an attempt saved before teammate Katrina Smith missed an open goal opportunity. De Vanna then put Adelaide further ahead in the 70th minute, a brilliant solo effort weaving past several opponents before slotting home. Victoria scored a consolation goal in stoppage time, substitute Belinda Pacella the scorer.

Sensation - Trimboli, May, Burgess, Slater, Winn, Gawlik, Madden, Salisbury, Harrison, De Vanna, Augimeri. Subs used - Papageorgiou, Dickson, Walsh, Katianos.

Vision - Barbieri, McEvoy, Smith, Anstis, Groenewald, Lamb, Humble, Bisby, Digiammarco, Terek, Vardakas. Subs used - Romano, Koutrouvelis, Pacella.

FINAL POINTS LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
NSW Sapphires	10	9	1	-	39	7	32	28
Canberra Eclipse	10	6	2	2	20	9	11	20
Queens Stings	10	5	3	2	16	8	8	18
Adelaide Sensation	10	3	-	7	12	23	-11	9
Northern NSW Pride	10	2	1	7	15	32	-17	7
Victoria Vision	10	1	1	8	5	28	-23	4

LEADING GOALSCORERS 2001/2002

8	Caitlin MUNO	Canberra Eclipse
8	Kelly GOLEBIOWSKI	NSW Sapphires
8	Alicia CAVANAGH	NSW Sapphires
6	Lia AUGIMERI	Adelaide Sensation
6	Amy WILSON	Canberra Eclipse
5	Katie GILL	Northern NSW Pride
4	Joanne PETERS	NSW Sapphires
4	Lana HARCH	Queensland Sting
4	Hayley CRAWFORD	Northern NSW Pride
4	Heather GARRIOCK	NSW Sapphires
4	Lisa DE VANNA	Adelaide Sensation
3	Amy WILSON,	Canberra Eclipse

NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

www.nswpremierleague.com



FEATURE MATCH

Leichhardt Tigers

VS

Blacktown City Demons

KICK-OFF: 5pm & 3pm, Sunday 3 March 2002
VENUE: Lambert Park, Marion St, Leichhardt

Undoubtedly the match of the round, these two traditional rivals are sure to put on one hell of a game when they go head to head at picturesque Lambert Park on Sunday afternoon.

After a midseason slump the Tigers have fought back to again sit comfortably in third spot, within striking distance of top spot on the competition ladder. In recent weeks they have knocked over fellow contenders Bonnyrigg and Bankstown City, to stake their claim for the premiership.

"Our form in recent weeks has been good," said Captain Sam La Rocca, "but it's important we continue to win games and mount some pressure on the top teams. We are only one win away from Parramatta and Bonnyrigg and if they slip up, we'll be there waiting to pounce."

The Tigers have welcomed back former Irish youth international Steven Livingstone and Michael Galluzzo from the injured list in recent weeks and have former

Sydney Olympic striker Harry James again staking a claim for selection. With only Joe Bruni causing any injury concerns, it will be a full strength Tigers side that meets the Demons head on.

"We always grow an extra leg at Lambert Park and the home ground advantage gives us an extra lift," concluded La Rocca. "Having beaten Blacktown earlier in the season it would give us a huge boost to knock them over a second time."

But Blacktown won't be easy pickings for the Tigers. Unbeaten in their past seven outings they have rediscovered that winning form that was so much a part of their successful campaigns in recent seasons. Injured midfielder Damon Langan has seen his side get back into the Top Five and is adamant the Demons are there to stay.

"We have had a difficult last few weeks, but the boys have shown a lot of character to fight back and are playing some good football," said Langan. "But we

must continue to win games and that all starts with Leichhardt this Sunday."

Nursing an injured leg, Langan has also been joined by defender Paul Yates who is out for the season with back problems. Yates replacement is none other than Dane Hokin and he has proved a revelation at the back, showing a great deal of skill and ability, which belie his tender years.

"It's been tough for Paul and I," said Langan. "Mike Smith and Dane Hokin have filled the holes nicely, but hopefully I can get back on the training park in the next few weeks and push these guys hard for selection."

In other news from the Blacktown City camp, striker Mark Hagger has departed for Malaysian club Johor FC, where he will line-up with another former Demon in Jon Angelucci.

Round Six Result:
Blacktown City 1 (D. Langan pen) — Leichhardt-Tigers 2 (S. Livingstone, J. Brown)

SQUADS



Leichhardt captain Sam La Rocca:
"We are only one win away from Parramatta and Bonnyrigg and if they slip up, we'll be there waiting to pounce."

TIGERS: 1. Andrew Crews, 2. Kelvin Foster, 3. Joe Moric, 4. Ross Kethel, 5. Steven Livingstone, 6. Michael Galluzzo, 7. Joe Bruni, 8. James Stubbs-Mills, 9. Allan Picken, 10. Steve Karavatakis, 11. Sam La Rocca, 12. Jeremy Brown, 13. Andrew Falas, 15. Ryan Jones, 16. Anthony Tesoro, 17. Jason Lai, 20. John Paul Boutros, 23. Derek Poimer, **Coach:** Les De Celis

DEMONS: 1. John Crawley, 2. Dane Hokin, 3. Damien Foxe, 4. Peter Sermanni, 5. Ben Willard, 6. Damon Langan, 7. Paul Dee, 8. Michael Smith, 9. Kain Rastall, 10. Naoki Iwaya, 11. Jim Nikas, 12. Zlatko Donev, 13. Steve Riches, 14. David Reid, 16. Patrick Gatt, 17. Luciano Berbis, 18. Graeme O'Donnell, 19. Chad Lewis, 20. James Wilkinson, **Coach:** Brian Brown

The Leichhardt Tigers are proudly sponsored by Continental Tyres and Western Suburbs Leagues Club



ST. GEORGE



PREMIER LEAGUE

ROUND 17

Friday March 1		1st Grade	U19
St George	v Bankstown City	St George Stad	8:00pm 6:00pm
Saturday March 2			
Fairfield Bulls	v S'land Sharks	Nineveh Field	7:00pm 5:00pm
Belconnen BD	v Central Coast	Hawker Oval	5:00pm 3:00pm
Penrith Panthers	v Bonnyrigg WE	Andrews Rd Fld	7:00pm 5:00pm
Sunday March 3			
P'matta Eagles	v C'bury-M'ville	Melita Stadium	6:30pm 4:30pm
Leichhardt Tigers	v Blacktown City	Lambert Park	5:00pm 3:00pm

ROUND 18

Saturday March 9		1st Grade	U19
C'bury-M'ville	v Fairfield Bulls	Henson Park	7:00pm 5:00pm
S'land Sharks	v Leichhardt Tigers	Seymour Shaw	7:00pm 5:00pm
Blacktown City	v St George	Gabbie Stadium	7:00pm 5:00pm
Bankstown City	v Bonnyrigg WE	Jensen Park	7:00pm 5:00pm
Central Coast	v P'matta Eagles	Plum Park	7:00pm 5:00pm
Belconnen BD	v Penrith Panthers	Hawker Oval	5:00pm 3:00pm

Rescheduled Fixtures

Round 12: Wednesday 27 February: Under 19:			
Leichhardt Tigers	v Fairfield Bulls	Lambert Park	7:00pm
Round 13: Wednesday 13 March: Under 19:			
Penrith Panthers	v Leichhardt Tigers	Lambert Park	7:15pm
Round 14: Wednesday 6 March: 1st Grade:			
Bonnyrigg WE	v Fairfield Bulls	Serbian Centre	8:00pm
Round 14: Wednesday 6 March: Under 19:			
Bonnyrigg WE	v Fairfield Bulls	Serbian Centre	6:00pm
Round 15: Wednesday 27 February: Under 19:			
Parramatta Eagles	v Blacktown City	Melita Stadium	7:00pm



The Cafe La Scala Player of the Week after Round 16 of the NSW Premier League is:



Danial Cummins
Parramatta Eagles

Cafe La Scala is located at Shop 32, Piazza Level, Italian Forum, 23 Norton St, Leichhardt - Phone: (02) 9572 8577



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NSW Premier League



PREVIEW ROUND SEVENTEEN

Coasties travel to Canberra



Fairfield Bulls VS Sutherland Sharks



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 2 March 2002

VENUE: Nineveh Field, 673 Smithfield Road, Edensor Park

After smashing the Saints 7-3 three weeks ago, the Bulls have been on a downward spiral, losing their last two games to slide down the premiership table to seventh.

Now two competition points outside the Top Five, Fairfield is looking decidedly uncomfortable and must pick up three points against the Sharks. Sutherland's recent form has been disappointing but they will have Captain Alen Stajcic available after a week's layoff. Despite his inclusion it will take a major form reversal for them to have a chance away from home.

Round Six Result: Sutherland Sharks 0 — Fairfield Bulls 2 (J. Connolly, M. Borg)

SQUADS

BULLS: 1. Frank Mikuletic, 2. Adam Snyder, 3. Mathew Dihm, 4. Paul Bourke, 6. Paul Richardson, 7. Ray Younis, 8. Stewart Van Bentum, 9. Marc Hoenselaars, 10. Mathew Borg, 11. Richard Harrison, 12. Tom Maric, 14. Ismael Arrarte, 15. Nick Bosevski, 16. Andy Ravello, 17. Craig Sharpley, 19. Jason Connolly, 20. Ali Akbal, **Coach:** Craig Sharpley

SHARKS: 1. Dennes Olla, 2. Peter Feehan, 3. Alen Stajcic, 4. David O'Han, 5. Ben Short, 6. Dean Heffernan, 7. Jamie Danaskos, 8. Monte Pfrengle, 9. Alex Pfrengle, 10. Steve Cklamovski, 11. Kris Karanasos, 12. Dean Spresian, 13. Ambrose Mancia, 14. Simon Miller, 15. Colin McAusland, 16. Kire Josevski, 17. Bill Petrovski, 20. Sam LaMacchia, 21. Mitchell Blowes, **Coach:** Billy McColl

Fairfield Bulls are proudly sponsored by the Nineveh Sports & Community Club



Penrith Panthers VS Bonnyrigg White Eagles



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 2 March 2002

VENUE: Andrews Road Field, Andrews Road, Penrith

The Panthers still haven't notched a win since Round One, but they continue to offer stubborn resistance against most sides.

Three draws in their past five matches shows they are a hard side to break down and in striker Rod Hutchinson they have a player capable of finding the net.

Bonnyrigg will be without Tayfun Devrimol and Vuko Tomasevic this weekend but will have Todd Macrae available after a nasty neck injury. The White Eagles desperately need a win to keep pace with Parramatta and should take the points.

Round Six Result: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 (B. Dragas, R. Gomez) — Penrith Panthers 1 (J. Sciberras)

SQUADS

PANTHERS: 1. Chad Taylor, 2. Jon Hawkins, 3. Chris Giometti, 4. Glenn Meilak, 5. Ben Wright, 6. Daniel Wells, 7. Dave Gardiner, 8. Paul Marosevic, 9. Rod Hutchinson, 10. Osvaldo El Ali, 11. Luke O'Connell, 12. Christian Lima, 13. Jason Sciberras, 14. Wayne Berrigan, 15. Danny Hinton, 17. Shane Hammond, 18. Gustavo Orcajo, 20. Tim O'Connell, 21. Ryan Noble, 25. Marty McCaffery, 26. Luke Boyd, 24. Kurt Van Arkels, **Coach:** Tony Rassmussen

WHITE EAGLES: 1. Fernando Greco, 2. Sasha Utjesenovic, 4. Bobby Dragas, 5. Tayfun Devrimol, 6. Vuko Tomasevic, 7. Javier Mancino, 8. David Harding, 9. Shane Knight, 10. Christopher Bradley, 11. Johnny Ghiso, 13. Robert Gomez, 14. Leigh Gunn, 15. Peter Cklamovski, 16. Michael Hawrysiuk, 17. Jimmy Aschner, 18. John Kyriazopoulos, 20. David Aceski, 22. Rajko Mandic, 23. Devrim Huseyin, **Coach:** Greg Woodhouse

The Penrith Panthers are proudly sponsored by: Allied Pickfords Business Relocations, Bonus Plus (Panthers World of Entertainment), Hawkesbury Radio 89.7, Mitre Sports, Panarottis Pizza Pasta (Main Lobby, Panthers World of Entertainment), Panthers World of Entertainment, Penrith Press, Prospect Credit Union, Soul Sports, Wizard Home Loans



Belconnen Blue Devils VS Central Coast Coasties



KICK-OFF: 5pm & 3pm, Saturday 2 March 2002

VENUE: Hawker Oval, Walhallow St, Hawker (ACT)

The Blue Devils have won four of their past six starts to move into fourth place on the table, within striking distance of a top three spot.

In order to do that, they must finish off the Top Five aspirations of the Central Coast, who are still an outside chance of figuring in the post season.

The Coasties are unbeaten in their last four games and will give themselves every chance of causing an upset. With both sides prepared to push the ball around and score goals, this game could well go either way.

Round Six Result: Central Coast 1 (M. Williams) — Belconnen 3 (D. Macor x2, S. Lazzari)

SQUADS

BLUE DEVILS: 1. Anthony Giannasca, 2. Toplica Popovich, 3. Matthew Cachia, 4. Elliot Zwangobani, 5. Nic Purdue, 6. Shane Lyons, 8. Michael Katz, 9. John Rakic, 10. Daniel Macor, 11. David Arranz, 12. Jaime Mauro, 13. Stewart Camara, 14. Marko Perinovic, 15. Adrian Dowling, 16. Oscar Zamora, 17. Stephen Kemp, 18. David Milin, 19. Daniel Camara, 20. Rade Kosanovic, **Coach:** Lino Fiorese

COASTIES: 1. Matthew Collits, 2. Sean Matthews, 3. Marc Falzon, 4. Danny Burt, 5. Mitchell Daley, 7. Peter Preston, 8. Adam Peatey, 9. Damien Smith, 10. Mick Williams, 11. Karl Freeman, 12. Peter Leary, 13. Peter Ritchie, 14. Andrew Clark, 15. Gary Wilson, 22. Darren Moore, **Coach:** Dale Eggleton

The Belconnen Blue Devils are proudly sponsored by Belconnen Soccer Club, Uhlsport, McGuigan Wines, bestvalueIT.com, Pacific Painting, Sharp Direct

ST. GEORGE



St George Saints VS Bankstown City Lions



KICK-OFF: 8pm & 6pm, Friday 1 March 2002

VENUE: St George Stadium, 88 Bestic St, Rockdale

With two wins from their past three starts, the home side cannot be taken lightly.

Bruno Beddoni is undoubtedly the man to watch having scored six goals in the Saints last five starts and his contribution will go a long way in deciding the outcome of this game.

The Lions were pushed out of the Top Five after last week-end's disappointing loss to the Leichhardt Tigers and they will be keen to make their presence felt against the Saints.

Round Six Result: St George 0 — Bankstown City 1 (A. Trpkoski)

SQUADS

SAINTS: 1. Stacy Alogdellis, 2. Mark Bariamis, 3. Nick Boliantitis, 4. Angelo Petratos, 5. Max Sevaes, 7. George Maglis, 8. Bruno Beddoni, 9. Achilleas Markopoulos, 11. John Fotiadis, 12. Jade Permail, 13. Nabil Codmani, 14. Steven Papadopoulos, 16. Simon Verrender, 17. Manny Spanoudakis, 18. Sal Zullo, 19. Mladen Damjanovic, 21. Brad Campbell, **Coach:** Manny Spanoudakis

LIONS: 1. Zlatko Josevski, 2. Sefer Yildiz, 3. Richard Luksic, 4. Bryan Raeburn, 5. Anthony Kanaan, 6. Paul Wearne, 7. George Issa, 8. Robert Issa, 9. Goce Trposki, 10. Iain MacDonald, 11. Alex Trpkoski, 12. Adam Mammoliti, 13. Saso Boskovski, 14. Freddy Umlil, 15. Damien Luksic, 16. Colin Luff, 17. Steven Dimitrievski, 18. Dong-Ki Kim, 19. Robert Angievski, 20. Cem Akilli, 21. Darren Iocca, 22. Leo Carle, **Coach:** Ljube Jancev

St George Saints are proudly sponsored by St George Rowing Club & The Soccer-Football Bus



NSW Premier League



FROM THE SIDELINES *with Greg Stock and Paul Goodwin*

Bankstown City Lions have added two new sponsors to their ranks. IGA Springwood has been signed up to cover the first grade squad while MACO.com.au is the clubs new reserve grade sponsor. After the Lions brilliant fight back against Fairfield, the morale in the camp is at an all-time high.

Injuries to Paul Wearne and Dong Ki-Kim look to be past with Coach Ljube Jancev confident his side can even challenge for a Top Three spot!

By contrast, the Bulls rooms at Nineveh Field after their 2-3 loss to Bankstown were very solemn.

Coach Craig Sharpley was hoping the match against Bonnyrigg last Wednesday would have gone ahead in order to get his side back on the park with an opportunity to post a much needed win.

"We'll bounce back," said Sharpley. "The boys are still training well and are keen and we still consider ourselves a big chance for the Top Three."

Blacktown City's injured
Midfielder **Damon**

Langan has been doing it tough the past few weeks.

Confined to the grandstand with a leg injury, Langan has been frustrated by his inability to get back on the park and help his side out during their current crisis. "I'll hopefully be able to start training in two weeks," said Langan. "But then I need to prove my fitness to Brian (Brown) and take it from there."

On the positive side, Dane Hokin has really settled into the Demons defence and has been working extremely well with Damien Foxe.

Sutherland's recent 3-2 away loss to Belconnen was a bit of a let down for the club, after the Sharks missed a late opportunity to grab at least a draw.

"We had our chances especially one late in the game where we went one on one with their goalkeeper," said Coach Billy McColl, "so it was a bit frustrating." But the young Sharks haven't given up hope of posting a couple more wins before the season is out.

Saints striker Bruno
Beddoni has been a top

line performer for the past ten years with many Premier League fans wondering where he has been the past few seasons. Beddoni was with Concord FC in the Second Division last winter season before answering the call to join the Saints just before Christmas.

"He has been a tremendous role model for the younger players" said Coach Manny Spanoudakis. "Players like Jade Permall learn a lot from a class player like Bruno and his introduction along with Sal Zullo and Nabil Codmani have assisted us greatly."

The Penrith Panthers are pleased with the way that Chris Giometti has fitted into their first grade unit. In addition to adding much needed experience in a defence that has been void of its main defender Ben Wright, Giometti has fitted in well socially and is now "one of the boys".

On the subject of Ben Wright, the saga continues. Wright returned home as planned in mid January 2002, but came back with an ankle injury that prevented him play-

ing until two weeks ago. After only twenty minutes of his under 19 return match against Canterbury Marrickville Wright was carried off the park with a knee injury that has seen him in a brace since.

In other news from the Panthers, the club is pleased to report that it has formalised a sponsorship deal with Mitre Sports that will see them as a gear sponsor of the complete club which will cover the first grade through to the Under 10 Academy squad.

The acquisition of this UK headquartered company will link well with the other gear sponsorship already in place with Soul Sports of Batt Street, Penrith.

Before the home game
between the Belconnen Blue Devils and Sutherland Sharks, a Soccer Canberra President's XI faced the Diplomatic soccer team and the Belconnen players showed their worth.

For nearly the entire first half, Blue Devils' President Tony Paterson was in goal and not one score was conceded. Just before the break, having exhausted himself through forays up towards the halfway line, Paterson substituted himself off allowing the younger Canberra Times soccer writer Jamie Nicholson to take over. The final score... President's XI 1 Diplomats 5.

Leichhardt Tigers beat Ryde City 2-1 in a friendly last Tuesday night with Tigers' Coach Les De Celis suitably impressed and predicting that the North Shore club will hold

their own after their promotion into the Winter Super League.

Ryde included two former Tigers in their line up, Andrew Nolan and Greg Fuchs and

both acquitted themselves well against their old club. Rumours persist that Coach De Celis will retire at the end of the season.

De Celis himself maintains he won't make any decision until the season is finished, but admits retirement is a possibility.

Midweek Game:

Coasties 0
Blacktown City 0

By Ray Sandell

A warm summer evening at Plum Park, a scoreless draw, boring? Certainly not! Even though there were no goals and each goalkeeper really had one save to make, this was a very good entertaining match.

From the first minute when Ricky Metcalf, Gary Wilson and Mick Williams combined to force John Crawley to make 25 early save the game was alive. The game flowed from end to end and it looked like we might be in for a flood of goals but poor finishing and numerous near misses were the result of some good play. For the Demons, Naoki Iwaya looked to have returned to his old form and doing similar things to the Coasties.

Midway through the first half Blacktown twice went close to open the scoring. They were on the attack, the assistant had his flag up for offside and the Coasties defenders appeared more interested in pointing this out to referee Vic Gauci than keeping their eyes on the game.

The ball went to Peter Sermaani about twenty metres out who saw what was going on an unleashed a shot that looked a certain goal but Coasties' goalie Darren Moore somehow recovered and just tipped the ball over the bar for a corner. One minute later Michael Smith made a run down the left and put a perfect cross into the Coasties goal

mouth which beat Moore all ends up, and everybody else and the ball went out for a throw in on the opposite side of the field!

Straight after the half time break, David Reid crossed into the Coasties area; the ball found Kain Rastall, unmarked, three metres out and only Moore to beat, but Rastall's shot went over the crossbar. Five minutes later Crawley made his best save of the match when Andrew Clark put over an inch perfect cross to an unmarked Williams and Crawley literally threw himself across the goal area to intercept the ball in mid air!



Blacktown City stalwart,
Damien Foxe.

The Coasties seemed to have unearthed another very promising youngster in Metcalf, and Ryan McKendrick's height was dominant in the penalty area and got them out of trouble a number of times. For the Demons, Iwaya up front and the wily Damien Foxe in defence played well. No goals and one point each! I think a fair result for all!



Parramatta Eagles

VS

C'bury-M'ville Olympic



KICK-OFF: 6.30pm & 4.30pm, Sunday 3 March 2002
VENUE: Melita Stadium, Everley Rd, South Granville

The Eagles continue to soar at the top of the Premier League table but they are another side who must keep winning games to keep the momentum going.

A 6-0 shellacking of the Sharks last weekend brings their tally to one loss in their last eight starts, though they will need to be at their best to make sure of the result.

Canterbury are again teetering on the brink of elimination, still eight points outside the Top Five. Mirko Jurilj and Mark Reveley will be back after a week's layoff, tipping the scales in favour of the home side.

Round Six Result: Canterbury Marrickville 0 — Parramatta Eagles 4 (J. Bakis, M. Reveley, M. Meilak, A. Mondello)

SQUADS

EAGLES: 1. Jason Holmes, 2. Daniel Borg, 3. Geoff Dwyer, 4. Malcolm Meilak, 5. Mark Reveley, 6. Mirko Jurilj, 7. Mauricio Islas, 8. Daniel Kukucka, 9. Anthony Mondello, 10. Tony Mittiga, 11. Jim Bakis, 13. Paul O'Grady, 12. Glenn Sprod, 14. Stephen Chipps, 15. Ben Delicata, 16. Geoff Howarth, 19. Daniel Cummins, 21. Joel Morgan, **Coach:** Tam Finlayson

OLYMPIC: 1. Les Bihari, 2. Greg Collins, 3. Christian Ortiz, 4. John Maniotopoulos, 5. Mark D'Alessandro, 6. Andy Amegashie, 7. Con Paradisis, 8. Yane Talcevski, 9. Anthony Doumaris, 10. Hussein Jomaa, 11. Aheleas Kotsopoulos, 12. John Pillemer, 13. Fernando Pellegrino, 14. Nihad Alemlie, 15. Manuel Papageorgiou, 16. Angelo Markopoulos, 17. Marcelo Guerrero, 18. Ali Salim, 19. Michael Kladis, 20. Tristan Tulloch, **Coach:** Laki Konistis

Parramatta Eagles are proudly sponsored by Parramatta Leagues Club & Bank of Valletta



St George's evergreen striker, Bruno Beddoni.

NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

PRODUCTION: Daniel Kuziow, Elly Vea, Mary Quartly, Mark Stavroulakis
CO-ORDINATOR: Binesh Mudaliar
WRITERS: Greg Stock, Paul Goodwin, Claire Killeen, Lezette Isaac, Ray Sandell, Nick Guoth, Robbie Bartolillo, Gary Vandeburgt
PHOTOGRAPHY: Carlos Furtado
★ All information is courtesy of the New South Wales Soccer Federation.
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GLENWOOD NSW 2768
Phone: (02) 9629 1800



NSW Premier League



Sutherland Sharks 0 Parramatta Eagles 6

By Greg Stock

Parramatta continued their reign at the top of the Premier League competition table for another week, disposing of a disappointing Sutherland 6-0 at Seymour Shaw Park on Saturday night.

Putting in their worst performance of the season to date, the Sharks were almost spectators as their more fancied opponents dished out a footballing lesson, not to be forgotten in a hurry.

Racing out to a 3-0 lead in the 39th minute, the Eagles were two classes above the home side and were never headed.

Daniel Cummins broke the ice in the 14th minute after a beautiful solo run and a right foot shot from the edge of the area, before Anthony Mondello made Dennes Olla pay for dropping the ball in his own area in the 38th minute.



Parramatta Eagles' star, Ben Delicata.

Jim Bakis followed that up a minute later when he slammed home his shot and the game was all but over.

With the Sharks defence opening up like a tin of sardines, the Eagles ran riot in the second half. Cummins and Bakis picked up goals in the 66th and 79th minutes respectively before Geoff Dwyer snared one for himself five minutes from time. All three goals came from simple moves forward, which left the slack marking Sharks defenders at sixes and sevens.

It was a very disheartening performance from the Sharks who were completely overrun in the second half, barely making it out of their half.

Giving away too much cheap possession they were never a threat and their defence allowed Bakis, Cummins and Delicata the space they needed to create chances. Man of the Match was undoubtedly Daniel Cummins who again led his side from the front.

Sutherland Sharks 0
Parramatta Eagles 6 (Cummins 14 66 Mondello 38 Bakis 39 79 Dwyer 85)

SUTHERLAND SHARKS: Dennes Olla, Ben Short, Dean Heffernan, Jamie Danaskos (Kris Karanasos 64), Monte Pfrengle, Alex Pfrengle, Steve Cklamovski, Simon Miller, Colin McAusland, Kire Josevski, Bill Petrovski

PARRAMATTA EAGLES: Jason Holmes, Geoff Dwyer, Malcolm Meilak, Mauricio Islas (Glenn Sprod 53), Daniel Kukucka (Geoff Howarth 77), Anthony Mondello (Stephen Chipps 64), Anthony Mittiga, Jimmy Bakis, Paul O'Grady, Ben Delicata, Daniel Cummins

Cautions: A. Pfrengle (ss) 46 Meilak (pe) 54 Heffernan (ss) 60

Referee: Boyd McGregor

Assistant Referees: Heidi Breeze and Andrew Kay

Fourth Official: Terry Goodhew



C'bury-M'ville 0 Belconnen BD 1

By Nick Guoth

The Belconnen Blue Devils gained three valuable points in a hard-fought 1-0 win at Henson Park and in doing so may have eliminated Canterbury Marrickville Olympic from the chase for a Finals berth.

In the end it was just one bit of indecision that separated the teams, yet superb goalkeeping by best on the field Les Bihari certainly kept his team in the game.

Although Canterbury had the run of play in the first half, Bihari was called on twice in a minute to keep the scoreline blank. First he pushed Michael Katz's shot wide before deflecting Daniel Macor's thunderbolt onto the bar.

Whilst they had the possession, Tony Giannasca in goals for the first time in three weeks, was hardly ever troubled and only made his first real saves late in the game. Belconnen defended well and used the break with their speedy midfielders.



One of the Premier League's very best players: Mike Katz of the Belconnen Blue Devils.

It was through this that four minutes into the second stanza Macor sent a long ball from the half-way right-sideline corner towards the box. Canterbury's sweeper Michael Kladis was in two minds and having misjudged the flight of the ball he found Katz behind him. The Belconnen midfielder chested the ball down before chipping Bihari from 20 metres out.

As Canterbury pushed forward looking for the equaliser the game opened up and both keepers were continuously in action.

With fifteen minutes left Giannasca first pushed a low drive by Aheleas Kotsopoulos around the post before acrobatically robbing substitute Con Paradisis of his goalward long strike two minutes later. At the other end Bihari gobbled up chance after chance the hardest being a low Katz shot when left alone in the box.

Belconnen held out for the win and in doing so have consolidated their fourth position as they maneuver themselves for the run home to the finals, whilst for Canterbury it will be a very hard struggle now eight points behind fifth spot.

Canterbury Marrickville 0
Belconnen 1 (Katz 49)

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE: Les Bihari, Greg Collins, John Manolopoulos, Mark D'Alessandro, Andy Amegashie, Anthony Dumanis (Con Paradisis 54), Yane Talceviski, Aheleas Kotsopoulos, Angelo Markopoulos (John Pillemer 65), Ali Salim, Michael Kladis

BELCONNEN: Anthony Giannasca, Topica Popovich, Elliot Zwangobani, Shane Lyons, Michael Katz (Clinton Larfield 93), Daniel Macor, Jaime Mauro, Stewart Camara, Marko Perinovic (Daniel Camara 79), Adrian Dowling (Matthew Cachia 46), David Milin

Yellow Cards: Canterbury (Kladis 34)

Belconnen (Perinovic 29, Popovich 51)

Referee: S. Przydacz

Assistant Referees: J. Soranidis & D. Adamopoulos

Fourth Official: M. Collins



Blacktown City 3 Fairfield Bulls 2

By Ray Sandell

There is an old saying in sport that 'the best form of defence is attack'. Unfortunately Fairfield Coach Craig Sharpley had either never heard of the saying or had forgotten it.

With fifteen minutes to go in this match the Bulls were well on top, safely holding the Demons attacks and causing problems in the opposition's penalty area.

For some unknown reason Sharpley did the inexplicable! He took off the striking duo of Mathew Borg and Marc Hoenselaars, packed his own half with eleven players, let Blacktown back into the game and handed them the three points!

From the outset it was all the Demons and they soon showed they meant business. After five minutes they earned a corner and Zlatko Donev's well taken curling kick was dropped by young 'keeper Ali Akbal and Mike Smith was on hand to put the ball into the net for the opening goal.

For the next fifteen minutes the Demons kept up the attack but somehow the Bulls defence held out but they did not look very convincing. Jason Connolly earned a yellow card for an evil tackle from behind on Naoki Imaya close to the edge of the penalty area, but the free kick went straight



Former Marconi Stallion, Mike Smith, scored Blacktown City's first goal against Fairfield.

to Akbal. Two minutes later Connolly repeated his earlier infringement on Donev but this time referee Mark Hester ignored it and played on! Lucky Connolly!

Fairfield started to get back into the game and it was now John Crawley in the Blacktown goal who was having a busy time. Borg and Hoenselaars were beginning to run at the defence and causing all sorts of problems and having a few near misses. Three minutes before the break the ball went to Richard Harrison, he took the ball to the edge of the penalty area and curled a wicked shot, that appeared to get a slight deflection, into the far top corner of the net for the equaliser. Half time and it was all level again!

The second half started with a bang! Within a minute the Bulls received a free kick in the centre circle. Connolly saw the Blacktown defence well out and coolly lobbed the ball to a charging Hoenselaars who ran at the advancing Crawley and a beautiful lob into the net put the Bulls in front. Blacktown tried everything to get back on even terms. Graeme O'Donnell, playing his initial first grade game for the Demons, was working well with Donev but they were being well held by the Bulls defence in which Akbal had got over his early blemish and was playing confidently and Connolly had cooled down and was marshalling his teammates well.

Up the other end the Demons defence was working just as hard trying to cope with Borg and Hoenselaars. Fifteen minutes to go and it looked as if it was going to be another disappointing night for the home side. Then it happened! Sharpley made his substitutions and changed to a defensive pattern. Blacktown now had more men coming into the attack.

It was getting furious, four cautions in five minutes told the story. Tom Maric's caution led to a free kick just outside the Fairfield penalty area. Paul Dee's magical curling kick found the head of Luciano Berbis and it was two all!

The substitutes had done their job! But wait there's more! Four minutes into time added on and David Reid found an unmarked Naoki Imaya who ran to edge of the penalty area, through the Bulls defence and coolly slotted home the winner.

Craig Sharpley, in his initial year as coach, would have learnt as much in this game as he had all season. One had to feel sorry for the Bulls players but then again the Demons never gave up and keep their semi final hopes alive. Any more games like this and we'll all be on blood pressure pills!!

Blacktown City Demons 3 (M Smith 5m L Berbis 89m N Imaya 94m)
Fairfield Bulls 2 (R Harrison 42m M Hoenselaars 46m)

BLACKTOWN: Crawley, Foxe, Sermanni (Berbis), Willard, Smith, Rastall, Imaya, Nikas (Riches), Donev, Reid, O'Donnell (Dee)

FAIRFIELD: Akbal, Bourke, Richardson, Van Bentum, Hoenselaars (Younis), Borg (Dihm), Harrison, Maric, Bosevski (Snyder), Ravanello, Connolly

Cautions: Blacktown: Berbis (89min), Willard (92min) Fairfield: Connolly (25min), Richardson (43min), Akbal (44min), Van Bentum (85min), Maric (89min)

Referee: Mark Hester.

Assistant Referees: Jim Barnes, Damian Warstall

Fourth Official: Peter Apostolou



NSW Premier League



Bonnyrigg WE 3 St George Saints 2

By Lezette Isaac

A blistering two goals in the opening 10 minutes by Bonnyrigg gave the White Eagles some much needed confidence beating the St George Saints 3-2 in a well fought match at the Serbian Centre on Saturday night.

Having lost their last three games, White Eagles' Coach Greg Woodhouse would have asked for more commitment from his players and that's exactly what he received. The White Eagles played their way into some much-needed form to erase the demons of the past three weeks, as their opponents pushed them to the limit.

The home team got off to a flyer, compliments of a Chris Bradley screamer in the 3rd minute. Bradley received the ball right of the field, slamming it into the back of the goal and putting the White Eagles up 1-0 early in the match.

The brilliant start only got better for the home team when Jimmy Aschner returned to the goal-scoring circle. An almost perfect cross by teammate Bradley connected with the striker as he headed the ball for the second goal in the 7th minute.

Shell shocked by the first two goals, the Saints

Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 (C Bradley 3m J Aschner 7m D Harding 49m)

St George Saints 2 (B Beddoni 44m pen, A Petratos 66m).

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES: I Necevski, S Utjesenovic, D Huseyin, J Kyriazopoulos, M West, J Ghiso, D Harding, M Hawrysiuk (R Gomez 46), C Bradley, S Knight, J Aschner

ST GEORGE: S Alogdellis, M Bariamis, A Petratos, M Sevares (Permall 63), G Maglis, B Beddoni, A Markopoulos, M Damjanovic (Fotiadis 80), N Codmani, S Verrender, S Zullo

Yellow Cards: Verrender 23, Beddoni 36, Zullo 55

Referee: V Gauci

Assistant Referees: M Johnson, P Verinder

Fourth Official: J Nicolaou

kept their cool, matching the White Eagles for the remainder of the half. The Saints' hard work paid off in the 43rd minute, when Ghiso unnecessarily brought down Bruno Beddoni, in the box just before half time.

Beddoni made no mistake whizzing it past the goalie. With the score 2-1 at halftime it was anyone's game.

A quick second half goal by White Eagles player David Harding in the 48th minute, gave them a two goal buffer for the second time in the match, as the White Eagles looked to be cruising for a comfortable win. But the home team did not count on St George's fighting spirit.

Goalie Stacy Alogdellis came up with some inspirational saves and it proved crucial as Angelo Petratos reduced the margin to one goal in the 66th minute.

The tension was felt by both sides with the score at 3-2, but to their credit Bonnyrigg held on for their first win in four matches and returned to the winners circle, a place Greg Woodhouse would much rather prefer.



The fiercely determined St George Saints.

Back row (L-R): Mladen Damjanovic, Angelo Petratos (Captain), Archie Markopoulos, Bruno Beddoni, Sal Zullo, Simon Verrender, Mark Bariamis, Brad Campbell.

Front row (L-R): Jade Permall, Max Sevares, Nabil Codmani, Stacy Alogdellis, George Maglis, John Fotiadis.



Bankstown City 1 Leichhardt Tigers 3

By Robbie Bartolillo

The only positive the Lions could take from their 3-1 defeat, was the free footballing lesson they received at the hands of the brilliant Tigers. In every department, the Tigers were absolutely supreme, and were unfortunate not to rack up at least five more, against a deflated Lions outfit.

In the derby of the 'felines', the Tigers immediately dominated possession, exploiting the distinct lack of Lions' intensity. Through the engine room efforts of La Rocca, Stubbs-Mills and the rejuvenated Derek Poimer, the Tigers constantly peppered the Lions goal, only to be denied by misfortune or desperate defending.

After La Rocca came close in the 15th minute, following some enterprising team passing, striker Allan Picken nearly broke the deadlock on two occasions, in the 23rd and 25th minutes. His constant aerial presence, in conjunction with Steve Karavataki's nifty footwork was causing havoc; evident in Jeremy Brown's 47th minute shot.

How the scoreline was level at half-time amazed everyone, including the most parochial Lions support-

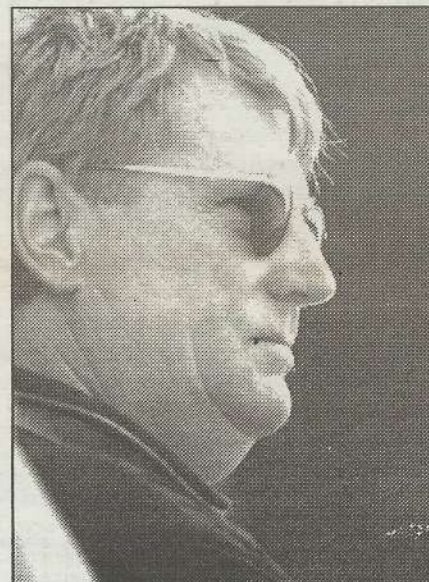
ers. The Lions began the second half in a more spirited fashion, with both Angievski and substitute Iocca, combining to inject some much needed attacking enterprise. Indeed it was Angievski's long range curling free-kick, which Crews repelled in the 55th minute, that spurred on a possible Lions resurgence.

But testament to their resilient capabilities, the Tigers stood firm, and eventually opened the scoring in the 62nd. It involved a great piece of Poimer magic, his jinking run down the left, and eventual cross was met perfectly by a highflying Picken's header. The opening of the floodgates was imminent, and a second goal arrived in the 72nd minute. Captain La Rocca received the ball out on the left; his pinpoint cross met by the swan diving Karavataki, his magnificent header eliminating any Lions come back.

At this stage, the Tigers were playing with consummate ease, with defenders Tesoro, Galluzzo and Boutros, seeing just rewards for their impenetrable defiance.

The third goal arrived in the 87th, when Jeremy Brown summed up the Lions night, easily beating two defenders before shooting past the hapless Josevski. And although Iocca grabbed a late consolation goal in the 93rd, it was the Tigers who reaffirmed their promising title aspirations.

Tigers' Coach Les DeCelis was content with the result. "It was pretty good because we were in a bit of a slump. To beat Bonnyrigg and Bankstown is great."



Les De Celis: Leichhardt's master coach.

Leichhardt Tigers 3 (Picken 62, Karavataki 73, Brown 86)
Bankstown City Lions 1 (Iocca 93)

LIONS: Josevski, R. Luksic, Raeburn, Wearne (Carle 68), Mammoliti (Iocca 40), Umlil, D. Luksic, Luff, Dimitrievski, Kim (Kanaan 48), Angievski

TIGERS: Crews, Moric, Boutros (Livingstone 76), Galluzzo, Stubbs-Mills, Picken, Karavataki (Lal 87), La Rocca, Brown, Tesoro, Poimer (Jones 73)

Cautions: Galluzzo 75, Luksic 76

Referee: N. Asargiotis

Assistant Referees: E. Horvath, J. Rovella

Fourth Official: K. Sharp



Central Coast 1 Penrith Panthers 1

By Paul Goodwin

Penrith Panthers were denied a win over the locals, Central Coast Coasties, by some backs-to-the-wall defence, including a magnificent display of goalkeeping by Darren Moore and two disallowed second half goals that Penrith coaching staff were clearly aggrieved about.

Tony Rassmussen said after the game, "We were robbed!"

Well, certainly Penrith did enough to win the game apart from a quiet period in the middle of proceedings, during which time Coasties' skipper Andrew Clark fashioned an equaliser, but they were on fire early on and dominated the last twenty minutes as they searched for the winner.

Moore was outstanding, with two superb fingertip saves, but Penrith's ire was drawn by the disallowed goals. The first when a chip from Luke Boyd was ruled out after an unfair challenge on the keeper and the second from Danny Hinton for offside that most of the crowd believed was the winner, at the death.

Apart from those disappointments the Panthers belied their lowly status with some great football, none of their players more exciting than striker Jason Sciberras whose skill on the ball drew big plaudits from an appreciative crowd.

Coasties were lucky to escape with a point. Their goal, a regulation header by Clark at the far post, to a free kick dispatched from the right byline by Mick Williams in the 53rd minute, allowed them to salvage something from a match where they were generally below par for most of the 90 minutes.

Moore aside, few stood out for the home side. Penrith, by contrast, looked the part, worked hard and created danger every time they ventured forward.

Their opening goal came in the 23rd minute when a Sciberras corner from the right was nodded on by Rod Hutchinson for Tim O'Connell at the edge of the area to drive home low into the bottom left corner of Moore's net.

It was to be Moore's only blemish as he time and again claimed every cross and saved every shot, most spectacular being his save from an audacious lob by Hinton in the 90th minute that had 'goal' written all

over it. This was far from his first rescue act on a night when the visitors laid siege to his goal for long periods.

There were scares at the other end, as well, with a Sean Matthews free kick being parried by the keeper

and re-gathered desperately in the 83rd.

Overall, though, Penrith had by far the greater share of the chances and were indeed robbed of what should have been a win, based on their showing at Pluim Park on Saturday night.

Central Coast Coasties 1 (A Clark 53m)
Penrith Panthers 1 (T O'Connell 23m)

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES: Darren Moore, Sean Matthews, Andrew Clark (Peter Ritchie 60), Mitch Daley, Ryan McKendrick, Gary Wilson, Scott Jones, Adam Peatey (Peter Leary 76), Ricky Metcalf, Michael Williams (Nathan Byrn 73), Karl Freeman

PENRITH: Chad Taylor, Chris Giometti, Glenn Meilak (Osvaldo El Ali 66), Danny Wells, Paul Marosevic, Rod Hutchinson (Luke O'Connell 73), Jason Sciberras, Danny Hinton, Tim O'Connell, Ryan Noble, Luke Boyd

Cautions: Matthews 22 (CC), Wilson 67 (CC), Jones 73 (CC), Daley 77 (CC), Tim O'Connell 79 (PP)

Referee: Greg Leverton

Assistants: Gordon Selkirk and John Jiggins

Fourth Official: David Moore



Rod Hutchinson of Penrith Panthers travelled to his old stomping ground, Pluim Park on the weekend.



NSW Premier League



CLUB FOCUS

Return of the Legends for 2002

By Ray Sandell

PARRAMATTA MELITA EAGLES v BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS

Played at Melita Stadium, Sunday 17th February 2002.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES: Ray Farrugia, Kenny Wilson, Don Allen, Richie (my word, hasn't he put on some weight) Williams, John McKie, Rob McGinn, Bobby MacPherson, John Stoddart, Greg McCoy, Wayne Farnsworth, Phil Mikas, Steve McDonald, Alex Jamieson, Colin McAusland, Billy Griffiths, Ritchie Yamin, Mick Berry, Jay O'Rourke, Barry Walker, Mickey Cross, Peter Hensman, Peter Whiteside, Hector (competing with Richie Williams) Martinez, Victor (who'd be a referee) Gaudi and Vic Juchniewicz.

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS: Barry (still as thin as a rake) Hoare, Martin (still playing with Macarthur) Bourke, Cliff (coaching the under 19s)

Pointer, Stuart (hasn't grown any more hair) Selva, Peter Denyer, John Bradley, John Larkin, Randall Easthorpe, Mike McLaughlin, Steve Pollard, Mike Quarmby, Tony Rassmussen, Rod Skellern and Lawrie McKinna

GOALS:

PARRAMATTA: John McKie (Just like the good old days)

BLACKTOWN: Lawrie McKinna (Hope the Power were watching)

REFEREE: Wayne Spagnol

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Joe Borg, Doug (slowed to a walk) Rennie.



The 2002 Legends of Parramatta Eagles and Blacktown City Demons.

I had the pleasure of watching these players from the past still able to perform their magic in the 'The Return of the Legends' match at Melita Stadium two Sundays ago.

The hair may have been receding and a bit more grey, the waistline a bit (let's face it, a lot) bigger, the legs a bit slower and the tackles a bit (let's face it again, a lot) kinder, but the skill and endeavour was still there.

I remember the days when I used to referee most of these blokes, keep up with them, run past

a lot of them and keep most of them under control, or at least keep some of them under control some of the time!

Last Sunday the players controlled the match, kept referee Wayne Spagnol (he's just a kid), under control to such an extent he didn't have to blow for one foul.

The game was played in three 20 minute periods, which the players, and Doug Rennie, were pleased about. The only players who complained all day were Barry Hoare and Alex MacPherson

(and Doug Rennie) who had to play the whole game when Bruce James and Terry Greedy failed to arrive.

The goalies did not have much to do anyway as the strikers had obviously been watching the Socceroos play and had learnt how to miss goals!

Lawrie McKinna opened the scoring for the Demons with a shot in off the post and John McKie remembered the script when he equalised with five minutes to go.

After the game each player was presented with a commemorative medal and Ray Farrugia, who is now the coach of the Malta under 19 team, presented his old club with an autographed Malta shirt which commemorated the century of the Malta Football Association.

Eagles' President Vince Balzan wants to make this an annual event with other clubs participating. A great idea! Let's hope the others think so too. Thanks fellas for a great night's entertainment!

The Issa Dynasty Continues by Claire Killeen



Jeff Issa: The 14-year-old playing in the NSW Premier League.

Like other fourteen-year-olds, Jeffrey Issa enjoys his soccer-training and playing each week and having the hope that one day he may be good enough to join his heroes in the major leagues.

Unlike boys his age, Jeffrey has been blessed with skills for the round ball game well beyond his years. In fact, he is the youngest person playing in the New South Wales Premier League and the only 14-year-old to do so since Aytok Genç played for the Bankstown City Lions, this though sits well with the youngster.

"I don't think of it like that [that opponents are 4 or 5 years older]. If I'm confident

and marking a guy it doesn't bother me," Jeffrey says.

"I was marking this huge guy and I killed him," laughs Jeffrey.

Jeffrey comes across as quiet, polite and shy. Like most kids his age he is not quite sure of himself, however with time and age he will grow into a confident man ready to seize any opportunity to live out his dreams.

"I would love to play in the English Premier League, to play for Manchester United. I also want to play for Australia," says Jeffrey.

This is an average dream for the average boy who loves soccer. The one difference is that Jeffrey has another key element - talent, and his club Bankstown is doing every-

thing to make this talent grow.

The midfielder has grown up in a loving home and one that lives and breathes soccer. He says the support of his older brothers, Robert and George, and his dad are a huge influence in his life.

"We play indoor soccer together and they talk to me heaps. They give me confidence and encouragement plus they never let me down or put me down," says Jeffrey.

The Parramatta Marist student is unsure what else he would want to do as a career other than be a professional soccer player.

"I guess something to do with maths, I'm good at it...yeah maybe PE," he acknowledges.

Jeffrey rates his best memo-

ries in soccer at the moment as playing in the under 19s, and scoring a goal to put his team into a final.

However, as Jeffrey has been born with such talents



these will no doubt be long forgotten memories, new ones will replace them and the boy will really become a man.

Special thanks to Corryn Doueibi for her help in putting together this article.



NSW Premier League



SCOREBOARD

ROUND 16

PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

SUTHERLAND SHARKS . . .0	PARRAMATTA EAGLES6 (D Cummins 14m/66m, A Mondello 38m, J Bakis 39m/79m, G Dwyer 85m)
BLACKTOWN CITY3 (M Smith 5m, L Berbis 89m, N Imaya 94m)	FAIRFIELD BULLS2 (R Harrison 42m, M Hoenselaars 46m)
BONNYRIGG WE3 (C Bradley 3m, J Aschner 7m, D Harding 49m)	ST GEORGE SAINTS2 (B Beddoni 44m pen, A Petratos 66m)
CENTRAL COAST1 (A Clark 53m)	PENRITH PANTHERS1 (T O'Connell 23m)
C'BURY M'VILLE OLYMPIC 0	BELCONNEN BD1 (Katz 49m)
BANKSTOWN CITY1 (Iocca 93m)	LEIGHARDT TIGERS3 (Picken 62m, Karavatakis 73m, Brown 86m)

UNDER 19

C'BURY M'VILLE1	BELCONNEN BD0
BLACKTOWN CITY4	FAIRFIELD BULLS2
BANKSTOWN CITY0	LEIGHARDT TIGERS2
BONNYRIGG WE0	ST GEORGE SAINTS1
SUTHERLAND SHARKS . .1	PARRAMATTA EAGLES2
CENTRAL COAST2	PENRITH PANTHERS1

RESCHEDULED RESULTS: ROUND 13: FIRST GRADE: COASTIES 0 DEMONS 0. U19: COASTIES 3 DEMONS 1. ROUND 14: BONNYRIGG VS FAIRFIELD BULLS (FIRST GRADE & U19) WASHED OUT.

TABLES

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Eagles	16	11	1	4	47	19	34
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	15	11	1	3	34	16	34
Leichhardt Tigers	16	9	4	3	30	24	31
Belconnen Blue Devils	16	9	2	5	32	24	29
Blacktown City Demons	16	7	5	4	32	23	26
Bankstown City Lions	16	7	4	5	32	31	25
Fairfield Bulls	15	7	3	5	31	31	24
Canterbury Marrickville	16	5	3	8	21	28	18
Central Coast Coasties	16	4	5	7	17	25	17
Penrith Panthers	16	1	8	7	17	25	11
St George Saints	16	2	3	11	17	38	9
Sutherland Sharks	16	1	3	12	15	41	6

UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Central Coast Coasties	16	13	1	2	46	11	40
Parramatta Eagles	15	9	3	3	27	19	30
Leichhardt Tigers	14	9	2	3	28	11	29
Blacktown City Demons	15	9	1	5	35	22	28
Fairfield Bulls	14	7	3	4	33	23	24
Belconnen Blue Devils	16	6	4	6	38	34	22
Penrith Panthers	15	5	4	6	21	20	19
Canterbury Marrickville	16	5	4	7	18	25	19
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	15	5	2	8	20	28	17
St George Saints	16	4	4	8	14	31	16
Sutherland Sharks	16	2	2	12	24	50	8
Bankstown City Lions	16	2	2	12	11	41	8

TOP SCORERS

- 13 Jimmy Aschner (BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES)
- 13 Daniel Macor (BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS)
- 13 Jim Bakis (PARRAMATTA EAGLES)

Return of the Legends





NSW Premier League



SAPPHIRES UNDEFEATED RUN CONTINUES

NSW SAPPHIRES 3
(Golebiowski 35m, Garriock 64m, Cavanagh 90+m)
QUEENSLAND STING 0
AT VALENTINE SPORTS PARK, SYDNEY

The NSW Sapphires have continued their unbeaten run to the Women's National Soccer League Grand Final.

It was a quality NSW team that were cautious in the first third of the game and it wasn't until the 35th minute that NSW gained the edge when Kelly Golebiowski calmly slotted the ball past the Queensland 'keeper after a disastrous restart of play.

Shocked into the realization that they now had to score, Queensland came at the Sapphires. But nothing was going the Queenslanders way and when a screamer of a shot was stopped only by the crossbar, you knew that they were going to have to come back strong in the second forty five to have any chance.

Queensland attacked with venom for the first ten minutes of the second half, but it was to no avail. In the 64th minute, Jo Peters sent in a great cross into space for Heather

Garriock to finish off in front of goal. That then allowed NSW the freedom to play the stylish free flowing football that has seen them remain undefeated in the WNSL so far this season.

Then as if to 'rub salt into the wound', deep into stoppage time, Garriock was again on the spot to cut the ball back to a waiting Alicia Cavanagh outside the six yard box, who neatly headed the ball past the 'keeper.



Highly-rated WNSL midfielder, Michelle Carney.

Commenting on his team, Sapphires' Coach Allan Bourke said, "We were the better team today, and showed our class against a team of stars. But we showed today why we have dominated the competition overall, we have been the most consistent team."

On playing Canberra Eclipse in the Grand Final, Bourke commented, "Well the two best teams have made it to the final showdown."

The WNSL Grand Final will be played as a curtain raiser to the Parramatta Power-Perth Glory match at Parramatta Stadium on the 9th of March at 4 p.m.

NSW Sapphires: Kell, Tann - Darby (capt), Gilbert, Warrener, Carney, Peters (vc), Cavanagh, Golebiowski, Garriock, Davison, Kimber
Coach: Allan Bourke
Queensland Sting: Bartlett (vc), Reuter, Grant, Hohnke, McShea (capt), Harch, Beattie, Mann, Garven, Thomas, Mitchell
Coach: Mike Mulvey
Referees: Amelia Morris, 1st Assistant Sharon O'Neill, 2nd Assistant Sarah-Jane Beecroft, 4th Assistant Maria Balsamo.
Yellow Cards: 31st minute Sarah Garven (Queensland Sting)



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GOL4 12/01

A Turn For The Worse

By Stuart Jones

After eleven years on 2KY soccer pundit Colin Turner departed the station late last year. It was a sad day for football radio in Sydney as a man who had put football on the map of radio in this country was no longer to spread the message of the world game through this major Sydney radio station.

A step back in time sees Noele Barbar listening to Colin on radio on London's LBC hosting Sportswatch. This was a Saturday afternoon show that covered up to 14 matches live at one time. It was five hours of hectic radio but obviously he impressed his Aussie listener because he was soon made an offer too good to refuse.

Radio station 2KY were to offer Colin any sort of sports show he wanted and Colin looked at the opportunities both in terms of his private business and media work and decided to move to Australia. It was certainly a decision that he has never regretted. The station and Colin looked into the opportunity of putting English football on the radio and his Saturday night show was born.

"There had always been an audience for English soccer on television but a radio show was something new. Six weeks into the 1991 season we began the show based on talkback callers giving their tips and all the news from the UK, plus the second half of the main game live and an hour of all the scores being wrapped up."

It proved to be a great success and over ten years it proved to be both a ratings winner and a strong tool for advertisers. Such companies as Newcastle Brown Ale, Hahn, BSW, Sports Tab and Soccer City were closely allied to the show. 2KY then went soccer crazy and introduced NSL on to the station on a Sunday afternoon. Alongside current NSL Brisbane coach John Kosmina, and lead ESPN commentator Mike Hill Colin brought the domestic game to a new audience.

After a season the NSL rights were sold to 2GB in some controversy so 2KY reverted to having Colin's show as a main output of soccer news. For over ten years Colin brought us the news and matches live from the UK. It was the top rating show in its late night slot over the years and became a family show.

From the early days when the likes of Peter from Crewe rang in, even when he was away on his honeymoon. Sally, the Nottingham Forest supporter, was the first female caller and was a regular for ten years. Dave, the Pompey supporter, who's greyhound tried to pick the scores for him each week.

Young Kosta, who would fall asleep on the line waiting to talk to Colin. There were the Chelsea supporters at Maroochydore who would drive up the top of Mt Coota each Saturday night to pick up the 2KY reception. There were myriads of his young fans like Samantha who with her father would listen in the lounge room and try and be quiet while their mother/wife slept. There were also the likes of Barry iMr Qantas

who rang in from all over the world.

So it was across NSW that many listened into the small hours. Unlike the current 2UE coverage, Colin's show covered all of the leagues, and a look through the supporters club representatives and you will see many a familiar caller on Colin's show.

There was Noel of QPR, Micky of Arsenal, Fred of Man Utd, Bob 'the scouser' of Liverpool (who once admitted not disliking

Carlisle United. I heard on his show the dramatic day when our on loan keeper, Jimmy Glass, scored in the last minute to keep us in the Nationwide League.

The show's compassionate side was shown with collections for those who were less fortunate than we were, like a lady in Adelaide who was wheelchair bound. Colin got letters weekly from those infirmed or in hospital mentioning how the show helped cheer them up and bring them closer to the

er who wore his pyjamas (Sheff Utd kit) to the show and was constantly teased on air. He is now one of the leading sports reporters on WA television. Stuart Beamish took over and he went on to report for Sports Tonight and is now the editor of the World game — SBS's soccer website.

Although it was a family show there were plenty of big Aussie soccer names who appeared on the show, from the likes of Muscat, Moore, Bosnich (who's family would never miss a show and used to come into the studio bearing gifts), Schwarzer, to Stan Lazaridis.

Plus Australian former players like Ray Richards. Even if Colin was not there then the likes of Andy Paschilidis or Tommy Anderson held the reigns. Colin had leading media men from the UK on the show like Steve Curry and Martin Tyler reporting live from the games.

Colin was left to wrap up the world game in five minutes or so on the breakfast show, and to many a listener that five minutes seemed to get shorter and shorter. Colin takes up the story, "I did not feel soccer was being fairly treated on the show with only a few minutes dedicated to the world game."

Then I received phone calls from my friends encouraging me to stop going on air as I was talking to people who in the opinion of the soccer followers I talked to came across as having no respect for the game."

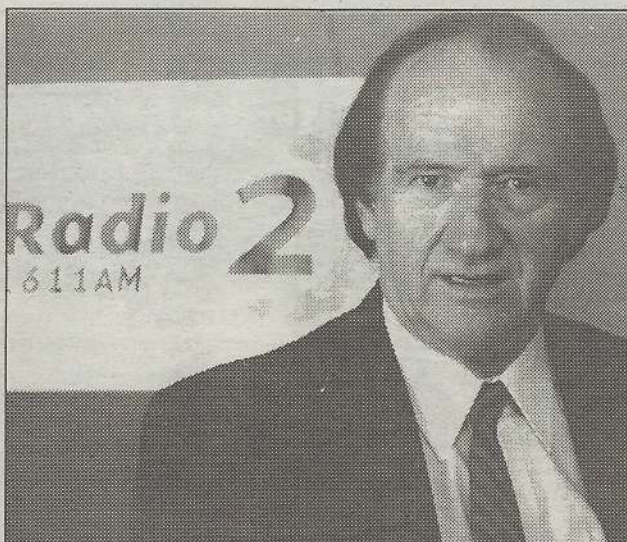
Reporting the game was no longer fun for Colin on 2KY and certainly the game of soccer was not getting the time it deserved in

the opinion of many. That is despite one of the big breakfast presenters doing a soccer show on Pay TV. I guess it is up to the listeners/viewers to determine whether 2KY is really serious about football anymore. In the end the heady days of the world game on 2KY really came to an end come the close of November this year. Yes someone else will take over but what has been built up over the last ten years plus has been lost.

I have met many supporters in the last few months asking what happened to the show and I hope this goes some way to answering those questions. The good news is Colin is not lost to radio and he will be appearing on Radio Two, which is run by World Audio.

For fans right across the nation the company is planning on buying stations in Brisbane and Melbourne plus 30 others country wide. For now it is Radio Two on 1611 AM in Sydney. "I was upset at 2KY and when I was offered this new challenge I jumped at it. I intend on giving the sport the credit it deserves in this country." There will be weekly shows and Colin will look to reintroduce his English soccer show next season.

So the good news is Colin won't be lost to football radio listeners. Hopefully radio coverage throughout Sydney will pick up. Certainly Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth have much better radio coverage and Sydney deserve it. I hope Colin's new dream can take football coverage in this city to bigger heights. Sydney deserves it. And thanks for the memories, and friends, Colin.



Colin Turner: Is the "man" in Radio for Soccer in Australia.

Shrewsbury Town either), Micky of West Ham, who's brother was secretary at Dagenham and Redbridge, Alan of Falkirk. There were Banbury United supporters, Sheffield Wednesday fans, Preston supporters and followers of the likes of Bournemouth, Peterborough, Partick, Hibs, Darlington, Millwall, I even kept up to date with my beloved

football game they loved, plus introduced them to many new friends over the air.

We all met many a friend through the show, none perhaps more so than his crew at 2KY. There was Tad, his producer, eating his peas and mash while keeping the show running. There was Clint Wheelodon doing phone support, the Sheffield United support-

Bresciano Grabbing Headlines in Italy

By Mark Stavroulakis

Australian international Marco



Marco Bresciano: "Aussie" star doing well in Italy's Serie B.

Bresciano is enjoying a so far brilliant season at Italian Serie B club Empoli.

The 21-year-old attacking midfielder has starred all year for his club with top-notch performances and outstanding goals that have made the young Australian star, one to watch out for.

More recently, the Australian international gained yet another man of the match performance as Empoli drew nil-all with former Serie A club Napoli.

Throughout the match, Marco was a constant menace in the opposition half, always proving to be a

handful for opposing defenders.

Being capped six times for Australia, Bresciano has already gained the attention of top Serie A clubs, but hopes are pinned this year for Empoli's promotion to the top flight.

Currently in fourth spot, Empoli will strive to extremes to take themselves into Italy's prime division.

Apart from Bresciano, former Carlton star Vince Grella is also doing well at the club. The Aussie duo have grabbed the Italian media's attention, and in future endeavours, the clubs themselves will seek for more Australian talent.

After that agonizing loss to Uruguay in this year's hope for a World Cup spot in Korea/Japan, the majority of the Socceroos decided to call it a day from international football. The next road to the World Cup will no doubt feature Bresciano as a main player in Australia's conquest for a hopeful World Cup spot.

The former Carlton players' success came well before his start at Empoli when former Head Australian coach (Boss) Les Scheinflug first saw the potential young Bresciano had. "I knew straight away he had good touches and had the makings of a quality player", said Scheinflug.

For the time being, Marco stated that he would like to concentrate on the job at hand, and if all goes well, play his part in the Serie A next year, that is of course, if no other Serie A club picks this future star up before then.

Rams launch rural Soccer Academy



the cream of Australia's young



Derby coach John Gregory will now have an "Aussie" connection for future Derby players.

talent by launching its first regional academy in Albury-Wodonga.

The regional soccer academy, which is the first of its kind in Australia, is Derby County's first serious bid to tap into the young pool of talent in Victoria's country areas. 11 local players already enrolled at the regional base after they were identified at the Country National Championships.

Launching the academy at Wodonga TAFE will be Derby County academy director and newly appointed England U16 coach, John Peacock and Terry Hennessey a former Derby star and Wales skipper.

"The new academy boasts among its facilities athlete-testing equipment, classrooms for the theory side of the game and a first-class playing surface for training and competition purposes."

"The backing of a high profile international club, specialized training from top Australian and international coaches and good facilities means regional soccer can only benefit," said Hennessey.

President of the Albury-Wodonga soccer association, John Nemeth declared; "It is great that the academy has identified the talent in the area and made a real commitment to developing young players without expecting anything back from the association."

"A number of players have already made their mark on the national and international scene, including local youngster Josh Kennedy who now plays in Germany, and I am confident that the added support from the academy will further benefit soccer in the north east region."

Farina livid at Oceania scheduling

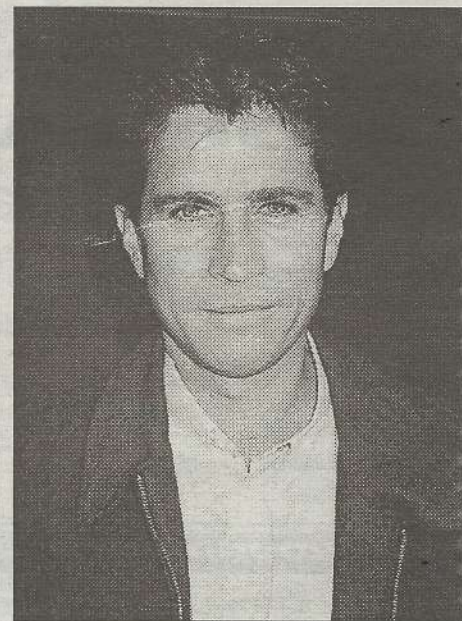
Socceroos coach Frank Farina is fuming at Oceania officials after they rejected his request to reschedule July's Oceania Nations Cup in Auckland.

Farina, who wanted the tournament switched to May will now have to contend with a half-

fit collection of players from the National League in their mid-winter break. Farina will have the headache of also trying to select his European based players.

The players themselves will have just finished their holiday break, and due to pre-season commitments at their respective clubs, will find it tough to leave for the tournament in July.

Expressing his concern at facing Fiji, Vanuatu and one other South Pacific nation, Farina urged; "You will have players coming into the tournament who haven't kicked a ball for seven weeks possibly longer. It's a huge thing to ask players to play five games in seven days."



Frank Farina: Australian coach was furious after his request for a change of date in the up and coming Oceania Nations Cup was rejected.

Sharks Tear Bergers Apart



By Bert van Bedaf

The Port Melbourne Sharks extracted a measure of revenge for last season's grand final loss, crushing Heidelberg United 6-3 at Anderson Reserve last Friday night, although Port coach Harry Chalkitis has maintained the only true revenge will be beating the Bergers in this year's grand final.

"The most important thing is that we won, (true) revenge will only come when we beat them in the grand final," Chalkitis said.

"But for us this is two wins out of three, so we're back on track and on Friday we're playing the Whittlesea Stallions, so that should be entertaining as well," Chalkitis said.

Whether Heidelberg will be there in August is debatable, but it won't be Peter Ollerton who will try and get them there again. Ollerton and Heidelberg parted company after a successful partnership last season. Heidelberg

officials reacted quickly, appointing former Melbourne Knights coach Vlado Vanis to the position.

On current form, it is as unlikely as buying a hamburger in a vegetarian restaurant that the Bergers make the finals. They were slaughtered against the Sharks. They had no defence and lacked all confidence. But the season is only a month old and a lot can happen between now and August.

The Sharks tore the Bergers apart with an opening goal by captain Jean-Paul Knezevic, four goals from man-of-the-match Peter Psarros and a closing sixth strike by another outstanding player Cameron Pino.

Peter Kakos (penalty), Brian MacNicol and Nick Lazarevski scored for Heidelberg. It was the third big defeat for the Bergers in as many rounds. They lost 5-1 to Altona Magic and 4-1 to Preston. The defending champion now averages five goals against after three rounds (15 goals against in total) after conceding only 19 last season.

Heidelberg came into the match with first-choice 'keeper Sam Frangos on the bench after two disastrous performances and without Tass Psonis, who suffered a broken leg in the previous round against Preston.

The Sharks took control of the game three minutes from kick-off, when Knezevic struck the net inside the area from a scramble.

They went further ahead in the

14th minute, when Psarros hit home from an angle, leaving the already battered Bergers well and truly shell-shocked.

Kakos pegged a goal back for Heidelberg with a penalty in the 25th minute, but Psarros quickly restored the two-goal cushion with an excellent move in the 33rd minute and Port settled for a comfortable 3-1 at the break.

The Sharks didn't wait long before firing in their fourth goal. Psarros hammered home from a

But Lazarevski buried a left-foot shot into the net in the 72nd minute, giving the Bergers some hope of a draw. Yet, almost straight from the kick-off, Psarros reclaimed the three-goal lead from a Pino cross (5-2).

A bit more luck went Heidelberg's way, when Basic awarded an indirect free-kick for a Port back-pass. Substitute Alfonso Opazo took the free-kick that was only half-cleared and MacNicol brought up the Bergers' third goal.



Action from the Victorian Premier League between Bentleigh Green and Preston. (Photo courtesy of Steven Gray)

cross by John Pappas in the 52nd minute, bringing up another monster score for the Bergers.

It also proved to be Heidelberg's last for the match, while Pino crunched one more behind the hapless Acs with a looping shot in the 87th minute to finish with the remarkable scoreline of 6-3.

Vanis has a huge task in front of him, but he has a reputation of getting results. He got St Albans in the grand final, saved Preston from relegation and just might get the Bergers hot again to make the finals.

PRESTON AND HEIDELBERG COACHES RESIGN

By Bert van Bedaf

The first dominoes have fallen after only three rounds in the Victorian Premier League season.

Doug Hodgson resigned as coach of Preston last week after two rounds, quickly followed by Peter Ollerton, who resigned as coach of Heidelberg, following the Bergers 6-3 crushing defeat away to Port Melbourne last Friday night. It was Heidelberg's third big loss in a row.

Although the Preston Lions had started their season poorly, losing 2-1 to Altona East in the opening round, they trounced titleholder Heidelberg 4-1 the following week and appeared to be hitting their straps.

But Hodgson quit last week. "It's official. I resigned because of the committee. There have been hassles from day one. I did not have the run of the team," Hodgson said.

"I tried to bring in some players (from Essendon Royals) and I was told, No, because the club has no money. It happened with every player I asked for. I did not get any from the committee," Hodgson said.

His assistant Terry Kirkham also resigned. The duo had signed on together after a successful partnership in various roles in England. They decided also to walk out together.

Speculation now centres on who will be his successor. Captain Chris Emovski has been appointed caretaker. Former Preston coach Vlado Vanis was tipped to return to the Lions, but Vanis has accepted the coaching job at Heidelberg after Ollerton quit amid turmoil. His assistant Paul Harris also resigned.

"I did not think it was in the interest of the club or my interest to return to Preston," Vanis said.

Heidelberg suffered three heavy defeats in the opening rounds of their VPL campaign. They lost 5-1 to Altona Magic, 4-1 to Preston and were absolutely hammered 6-3 by Port Melbourne last Friday night.

Club officials immediately went into crisis control mode after Ollerton announced his departure.

"I made up my mind I wanted to finish up and I officially resigned," Ollerton said. A former Victorian coach of the year, Ollerton won titles with Preston and with Heidelberg last year.

Vanis also coached VPL side St Albans and was voted Victorian coach of the year. He coached the Melbourne Knights in the national soccer league as well and has a reputation as a hard taskmaster who gets the job done.



Vlado Vanis: New Heidelberg coach.

"We talked last Saturday night and Heidelberg and I agreed on terms. I am happy with them and I hope Heidelberg will be happy with me," Vanis said.

"We now have to concentrate on getting the club off the bottom (of the VPL ladder). Something is wrong and I will have to find out. But I think in the end it will be all right," he said.

In round 4, on Sunday, March 3, 6pm, Preston hosts Fawkner Blues. Heidelberg is at home to Bentleigh Greens.

Victorian Premier League 2002

ROUND 3

FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY

Port Melbourne Sharks SC 6 Heidelberg Utd SC 3
(P. Psarros 4, J.P. Knezevic, C. Pino) (P. Kakos, N. Lazarevski, B. MacNicol)

SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Altona Magic SC 2 Whittlesea Stallions 2
(Z. Petrevski, Z. Todorovski) (V. Kalogeracos, I. Razov)

SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY

Fitzroy City 1 Bulleen Zebras 1
Green Gully Cavaliers SC 1 Fitzroy City SC 0
(N. Tsaltas)
Bentleigh Greens SC 1 Preston Lions SC 0
(Own Goal L. Anastasiou)
Fawkner Blues SC 2 Altona East Phoenix SC 2
(T. Sterjovski 2) (S. Pantelidis, N. Papadopoulos)

MON, 25 FEBRUARY, 8.15PM

Bulleen Zebras - St Albans Saints

SENIOR LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bentleigh Greens SC	3	3	0	0	4	0	9
Fawkner Blues SC	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Green Gully Cavaliers SC	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Port Melbourne Sharks SC	3	2	0	1	9	6	6
Whittlesea Stallions SC	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Altona Magic SC	3	1	1	1	8	5	4
Altona East Phoenix SC	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Preston Lions SC	3	1	0	2	5	4	3
Bulleen Zebras SC	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Fitzroy City SC	3	0	1	2	2	4	1
St Albans Saints SC	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Heidelberg United SC	3	0	0	3	5	15	0

★ ROUND 4 FIXTURES ★

Friday, 1 March, 8.15PM
Whittlesea Stallions - Port Melb Sharks

St Albans Saints - Green Gully Cavaliers
Heidelberg United - Bentleigh Greens
Altona East Phoenix - Bulleen Zebras
Preston Lions - Fawkner Blues

Sunday, 3 March, 6PM
Fitzroy City - Altona Magic

STALLIONS DISCOVER SILIC SUSPENDED

By Bert van Bedaf

VICTORIAN Premier League club Whittlesea Stallions belatedly has discovered their ace midfielder Mark Silic was suspended for four matches last season, which he was due to serve at the start of this season.

But already Silic played not only in the local Italian Cup, he also lined up against Bulleen in the VPL's opening round three weeks ago. He did not play at home against Green Gully a fortnight ago and is now serving his suspension.

"Some wires have been crossed here. We were not aware Silic was a suspended player. We can't play him now for another two weeks, which is a real blow for us," Stallions coach Phil Stubbins said.

Stubbins said when informally he was made aware, he immediately inquired with the Victorian Soccer Federation. The VSF confirmed the suspension only



Mark Silic: Whittlesea Stallions star in trouble with suspension.

hours before the game against Green Gully.

The suspension is a legacy when Silic briefly signed for St Albans and was involved in an altercation. Several players were charged during the game against Altona East. "Silic wasn't playing at the time, but he had a go at an official," Stubbins said.

Silic was sidelined after few appearances, because it was later determined that his transfer to the Saints had been illegal. He was no longer allowed to play for the Saints and he remained a United player. Silic went overseas shortly after.

"He went to Germany and he wasn't present at his (VSF) tribunal hearing. We transferred Silic from Sydney United. Soccer Australia cleared him. I did all the paper work with the VSF myself and his transfer was confirmed.

But we weren't (made) aware of his suspension," the Stallions coach explained.

Silic went to Germany for almost a year and returned about four weeks ago. He signed with the up-and-coming Stallions and played a major role in their first-round 3-2 win away to Bulleen. It now appears the VSF has blundered with Silic a second time. Bulleen President Reno Tessarotto learned about Silic's suspension and has now asked the VSF to explain.

"I have put in a complaint to the VSF. I've sent them a fax, asking why he was playing against us. I believe the referee should have picked it up.

He (Silic) was on the team sheet. I want to know what the VSF is going to do about it," Tessarotto said.

Melbourne Seeks Third Club



By Bert van Bedaf

There is mounting concern that soccer in Melbourne will be reduced to being a bit player in the national context, more so since there's been talk the National Soccer League might be reduced to ten franchised clubs and Melbourne might face the ugly prospect of being reduced to one club in a future national competition.

"We have been hearing rumours that the NSL is going to be reformed into a ten-team competition with possibly only one Melbourne team in it," a worried South Melbourne president George Vasilopoulos said recently.

The loss of Carlton and Eastern Pride last season has severely dented Victoria's stature as a soccer state. With a handful of teams in the national league a decade ago, Victoria now can only look back on a paradise lost.

Especially in Melbourne, where South Melbourne and the Melbourne Knights are the only national league clubs, the paltry derby attraction of two games is but a mere impersonation of former excitement, shared between four Victorian clubs.

South Melbourne's



"home" derby at Colonial stadium in the first half of the season attracted just over 10,000 spectators. The Knights abandoned thoughts of returning to Colonial when it failed to sign Eric Cantona, former

Up until last season, Melbourne also could enjoy derbies with Carlton, but the club collapsed before the end of last NSL season. Eastern Pride, the Morwell-based NSL club, befell a similar fate and with it vanished

pion Heidelberg United to the national league.

The Bergers were a force in the NSL until 1995, when they were acrimoniously dumped from the competition by former Soccer Australia chairman David

still nursing grudges from being sacked from the league all those years ago, has always fancied itself to become a national force.

The Whittlesea Stallions have made an impressive start to their first season in the premier league and are ambitious to move on from there. They are backed by millionaire businessman Sam Cuteri, who came close to buying and saving Carlton to stay in the national league.

He has similar plans with the Stallions and he is known to favour a second national division as a stepping stone into the big league and as a means of establishing a bridge between leagues by way of promotion and relegation.

Another backer of promotion and relegation, Green Gully president Charles Farrugia recently emerged in support of Vasilopoulos.

"If we can suggest a fair way of conducting a promotion and relegation system between the state league and the national league and the ideal of VPL promotion is to go ahead, it should be done properly with promotion criteria, play-off against re relegated (NSL) club (if applicable) and continued on a season to season basis," Farrugia said.

The Victorian Soccer Federation's chairman Manny Galanos also favours a second division and promotion and relegation.

"The only thing that is now required is for promotion (from the VPL) into a national league division two.

I am sure the new (Soccer Australia) chairman (Ian Knop) together with the other State federations will consider its introduction in the foreseeable future," Galanos said in the federation's 2001 annual report.



Colonial Stadium: This huge stadium was not used by the Knights after the failure of signing Eric Cantona for a guest appearance.

French captain of Manchester United, for a guest appearance.

Attendance at its home game at Knights Stadium against South fell short of a 7,000 crowd.

any notion of Melbourne riding high in the national stakes.

As Victoria's most successful NSL club with four national titles, South Melbourne has regarded the erosion of local NSL involvement with increasing concern.

Vasilopoulos has called for the (re)introduction of a "third" Melbourne club to the NSL.

"We should be looking at (adding) a third (Melbourne club)," Vasilopoulos recently commented, at the same time reviving earlier calls for promotion and relegation between the NSL and State leagues.

"If there was a way of introducing promotion from the Victorian Premier League, I'm sure there would be huge interest," he said.

Vasilopoulos has been suggesting the possible promotion of last season's (and defending) VPL cham-

Hill, together with another faded force Brunswick United Juventus (Sydney's Parramatta Eagles was also cut from the league that same year).

"We have depended on derbies (for revenue) from the Knights to the days of Heidelberg. We would love to have Heidelberg back," he said.

It seems remote Heidelberg would retrace its steps into the big league.

The club presently is said to be working through some internal problems after two big losses and it would be hard-pressed to muster the funds required to mount a successful bid to re-enter the national competition.

There are more candidates waiting in the wings. Other clubs who have indicated national ambitions are prominent premier league clubs Bulleen and Green Gully.

Bulleen, where quite a few Brunswick backers are



Eric Cantona: The French star failed to star for the Melbourne Knights in a guest appearance role.



George Vasilopoulos: Wants a third Melbourne club introduced in the National League.

Monaro signs new Coach

By Graham Cooke

Former University of Canberra coach Tony Brennan will lead a new-look Monaro team in the ACT Premiership this season.

And in one of the big player captures of the off-season, the club has lured teenage attacking midfielder Carl Pideski away from Tuggeranong United.

Pideski was United's leading scorer last season, and at 17 is a major prospect. The youngster certainly has the dedication - last season he traveled from Wagga Wagga, often staying overnight in Canberra for matches and training sessions.

Also coming from Tuggeranong is former coach Graeme Plath, who will be team manager.

Brennan, who a few months ago said he no longer wanted the pressures of a head coach's role, was courted by Canberra Deakin and Capital City Suns for an assistant's position, but said he did not hesitate when the call came through from Monaro.

"It was very sudden, I had assumed Steve Bryant was staying," the former National League star said. "But this is one call I could not resist - some of my best and happiest times were with this club, especially when we were in the NSL."

"Getting young Carl here is a great bonus and he'll certainly be putting some flair into



Tony Brennan: New Monaro coach.

the midfield. There are a couple of other players from Belconnen that we are looking at. We are not chasing them, but I would be very happy if they came along.

"We are losing a couple of players - it looks like John Nelson is going to Canberra City with Steve Bryant, and probably Darryl North as well - but there is cover here - we are looking to bring some of the more

promising players up from the reserves."

"Because of the weather we have only managed three training sessions so far, but there are already some good signs."

He said Monaro had been disappointing over the last couple of seasons. "I really thought they should have done better last year with the squad they had," he said.

The Brennan era would be different he promised. "I am sure the tendency is to coach as you played. Steve was a defender and that's where the emphasis lay during his time at Monaro. I loved to attack and I'll be asking the players to do the same."

"This is a club that demands results and it's my aim to give them some to cheer over."

He said Monaro would be fielding only the two compulsory Premiership teams, in seniors and Under 23. "However, after a big battle we have got our junior club up and running again and it was really heartening to see how many youngsters were signing up during registration day."

"That's where the future lies and if numbers are anything to go by then Monaro is going to be around for many years to come."

*Results in a weekend of junior representative matches between the ACT and Manly Warringah resulted:

Under 13s: ACT won 4-2 and 6-3; under 14s: ACT won 2-0 and 5-2; under 15s: ACT won 5-0 and 3-0; under 16s: 1-1 draw, Manly Warringah won 4-1.

New changes at Belconnen United

By Graham Cooke

Steady defender Alex Tsiokos will resume his ACT Premiership career with Belconnen United in 2002, coach Oscar Langone said.

Formerly with Canberra Olympic and Gungahlin Juventus, Tsiokos missed last season, but is ready to make a comeback, the coach said.

Also likely to join United is former Juventus wingback Stan Blazeovski, and Lee Pietrukowski, the tall central defender who decided to quit Belconnen Blue Devils' NSW Premier League squad to concentrate on winter football.

Another possible signing is Steve Lee, the lively striker who has become a regular with Capital City Suns, although Langone admitted that negotiations were still at a delicate stage. Tim Davidson, from Orange, formerly with the ACT Academy of Sport, will also be a potential first-teamer.

Langone said that as many as seven players currently with the Blue Devils, had indicated a wish to continue playing for Belconnen in the winter. However, the Devils' success in the summer competition meant it was quite likely they would take part in the finals series.

"That means we could be well into the competition before any of those players are available, but we will be making room for them," he said.

"The Blue Devils are the club's main priority, but Belconnen has always said the ACT League is important to them as well. Our role is to develop players, and the fact that five of United's 2001 squad are currently in the NSW competition means we are doing our job."

Langone tipped 21-year-old left-sided midfielder Manuel Semeno to blossom this season. "He is very talented and he was originally wanted for the Blue Devils, but he had work commitments," the coach said. "These have finished and if he concentrates on his game he will have a bright future."

*Canberra Deakin won a three-way pre-season tournament against State League opposition at the Riverside Stadium. Deakin beat Cooma 3-2 and Queanbeyan City 6-1. In the remaining match Queanbeyan beat Cooma 4-2.



Steve Lee: Belconnen United are chasing the young stars signature.

Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

Wolves - the club has reached 21 years of existence since the inaugural kick-off against Sydney Olympic with legendary coach Tommy Docharty, UK, on a short stint in Australia. A crowd of over 4000 plus watched the Club's successful start at the old Wollongong Showground which is now WIN Stadium. Wollongong's coach was Ken Morton, unknown to local soccer people, assembled a bunch of mercenaries, ignoring local talents completely with the club never reaching the 1960 popularity of South Coast United, State champions 1963, over 9000 crammed in the old Woonona Balls Paddock, over 35000 at the Sydney Sports Ground for the State final - coach of the South Coast club was Jim Kelly, a professional from Blackpool, UK.



A lot of water passed under the abridge since then - the Wollongong club still going strong for the past 21 years.

Wolves Head Coach Ron Corry - for another season, has to survey his present squad critically, considering a number of players (6) are out of contract at the end of this season. A bunch of eager youngsters from the Wolves youth are knocking on the door and will be possible replacements for the exodus of players next season. The make-up of the Wolves team for the next soccer season will come down to financial restrictions and whether the club has the revenue to buy new players.

Involve The Locals - a new Imotto put out speaking to General Manager Graeme Haney, the Wolves are active in providing pre-match entertainment, at present a successful ROO-BALL competition (for U/9's) and the popular Wolves-Chase. A new attraction is on trial,

inviting local soccer teams to participate in the HARDWARE MAN'S 7 seconds shoot-out with prize money \$250.- offered each week. Two teams of 5, including goalkeeper, are to start from halfway and allowed 7 seconds to score, two rounds organised, one before the main match, another at half time. Each player thus has two attempts, the highest score wins the money. This is an inaugural event to invite Illawarra soccer clubs to nominate players to take part and if popular could be a regular feature. The Wolves management should be congratulated on this unique initiative with the purpose of winning over more supporters.

Paul Reid - the Wolves 22 year old mid field player is to return, probably available for the next home game if selected. His negotiations to gain a players contract overseas failed thus he is re-joining his Wolves team, looking at possible overseas move later in his career. This talented player will be welcomed back by the wolves coaching staff, hoping to perhaps successfully strengthen the side. His contract expires at the end of this season, no doubt the Wolves board and fans would love to see Paul back at the club next season.

Illawarra Soccer - First and Second round results of matches played on four soccer grounds in Australia's longest running pre-season soccer knock-out. Corrimall Leagues Club has been providing the prize money for the winners over the last 40 years.

Premier League teams were successful with Kemblawarra winning convincingly 4:0 v Cringila Lions, Balgownie 3:1 v Dapto (First Division), Cringila 1:0 v Fernhill (first division), Bulli 2:1 v South Coast United, Kiama 6:1 v Pumas (Amateurs), Coniston 3:1 v

Shoalhaven, Balgownie 0:0 v Berkeley, Coniston 4:2 v Shellharbour City, Bulli 2:0 v Kiama, Port Kembla 4:1 v Warilla, Tarrawanna 5 v Aborigines (Amateurs), Lysaght 0:1 lost to first division Helensburgh, Port 2:1 v Tarrawanna, West Illawarra 1:1 v Albion Park White Eagles, Olympic 1:1 v Picton, Picton 8:1 v Woonona, West 7:0 v Northern United, Olympic 2:0 v University.

First Division clubs - Berkeley 4:0 v St. Elias Old Boys (Amateurs), South Coast 7:3 v Pumas (Amateurs), Bellambi 3:2 v Shellharbour city, Dapto 5:0 v St. Elias, Shoalhaven City 1:0 v Bellambi, Corrimall (Amateurs) 0:0 v Highlands, Woonona 2:0 v University, Northern United 3:3 v Ruse, Warilla 1:1 v Aborigines (Amateurs), Helensburgh 0:0 v Highlands, Albion Park White Eagles 3:0 v Ruse.

Soccer Illawarra Handbook 2002 - is at present in the process of being ready for the printer. Due to a pending appeal the competition draw cannot be finalised. Appreciation goes to the numerous business sponsors supporting the



Ron Corry: The Wolves coach hoping to keep his current squad of players for next season.

association in the way of placing advertising which covers the cost of the annual handbook. Out of 35 approached business houses, 31 responded favourable, with a huge thank you from the Soccer Association. It is anticipated the handbook with all relevant club data, draws, rules and regulations can be distributed prior to kick-off of the competition. Around 3000 copies are going to all 28 members clubs, each of the approximately 1500 players plus officials and supporters receive the book, also to the 26 Junior Soccer Clubs, 36 Amateur clubs and players, plus affiliated bodies.

Players Wanted - Northern United Soccer Club, home ground Memorial Park, Corrimall, requires urgently players to field all grades, Youth-Reserve-First Grade, contact Ken Flanagan on 0414 945 742 or come along to training nights on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The club plays in the First Division, looking back on a proud tradition == League champions in Premier League 1999, known then as Corrimall Rangers champion in First Division 1989, 1986, Bampton Cup winner 1999, Youth Cup winner 1997 and 1983, Club Championship 1989, all in all a very proud record.

Coach Views Kick-off - Barney King, new head coach of Shellharbour City Soccer Club, had his first sceptic look at players in the two games during the pre-season knock-out. In the first match the opposition was Bellambi, playing dominating the first half, using a few errors made by Shellharbour to lead 3:1 at the break. The second half showed a few adjustments with Shellharbour doing much better, coming back to 3:2, missing a possible equaliser when failing to convert a penalty in the final minute of play.

The second match against Premier League Champion Coniston Lions was a real test for Shellharbour, competing well - 2:2 in the second half before Coniston's experience showed, winning 4:2.

Barney King was very optimistic

after two good performances, saying a blend of youth and experienced players looks promising, particular the efforts of three 15 to 16 years old Shaun Falcon, Ryan Mansell, Peter Lawlor plus 17 - 18 old goalkeepers Joel Lockhart and Dean Lee were impressive. He used all 16 players, evaluating some fringe players and waiting on the return of several known first graders, not as yet available. With around four weeks to go before competition kick-off, the coach has ample time to work on his best possible starting eleven.

Junior Soccer - the 26 junior soccer clubs in Illawarra are currently in the process of registering players for the forthcoming 2002 soccer year. All clubs are reporting good numbers with registrations still accepting past published official dates to fill age groups carrying more than two or three teams per club. If in doubt please contact your local soccer club secretary or the Association Administration Officer on 42 83 57 77.

Due to the ever increasing number of teams and the limited number of fields available, some changes apply to ROO-BALL soccer to manage the many players = U/6 - U/7's limited to 15 minutes each way, U/8's to U/9's now 20 minutes each way, half time interval 5 minutes.

Interesting Newsletter February - from Shellharbour Junior Soccer Club INC. has been distributed stating a fresh start this year, welcoming everybody joining for 2002, a new focus returning to running as a Junior club solely with the club's new identity. New faces on the committee are: President Zoran Jovanovski, Vice President Joe Wilson, Secretary Benita Jovanovski, Treasurer Vicki Strachan, Registrar Nick Renwick, Canteen Manager Maria Gruvski, Grounds Co-ordinator Herb Cordes, Committee Andrew Callagher, Venko Cravovski, contact phone 0439 978 767. The Committee will endeavour to keep all parents informed of relevant issues through regular meetings with representa-



Paul Reid: The Wolves' midfielder has returned from an unhappy overseas trip.

tives from each team. Emphasised by the club is that junior players are not covered by insurance until March 2002, thus indicating that coaches who commence training sessions prior do so at their own risk. The Secretary stipulated that a short 2 hours registration day will be held at Barrack Heights Sports field from 10 AM to 12 Noon 2.March, age groups players still accepted are U/6's, U/7's, U/11's, U/12's and U/13's - team nominations have to be submitted by Friday 8th March.

Referee Quiz - situation is - a player takes the field wearing glasses! What is to be done? A) allow the player on, it is wrong to discriminate. B) player may not take part, it is dangerous for everybody. C) Player may only take the field if his ID has a photo which shows him with safety glasses. D) allow player on but warn him/her to be careful. Find the solution.

BHP Interworks Midweek Amateur Soccer Association - started last week, all games will be played Monday to Friday from 4 PM at BHP Centenary Park, Cringila. Anyone wishing to nominate a team please contact Rudy Horvath on 42968354 or

Ange Postecoglou: Under the Microscope

This week, ABSW's editor Mark Stavroulakis caught up with head youth Australian coach Ange Postecoglou.

Currently in charge of the U17, U20 and Young Socceroo squads, Postecoglou has the sole duty of developing future Australian internationals.

Through his time, Ange has really enjoyed the task at hand and believes that this country possesses many talents that will no doubt leave a huge mark in Australian soccer in years to come.

1) How does it feel being honoured in the South Melbourne team of the century?

It is no doubt a huge honour getting this from a club I spent my whole life at. As a player and coach, I had many great memories and seasons there and no doubt made a lot of friends as time went by. Overall a huge honour to have gained from such a credible club.

2) Your currently in the process of selecting a new batch of U17 Joeys stars, how's the preparations going?

At this stage the side is looking good, and like previous years, this year will see more future stars in the game. I was very pleased with the previous Pacific Cup held at Parklea this year and thought the lads did quite well in their first outing together as a squad. However, I still have a few

other lads to look at before I make my final decision. Preparations are currently in negotiations as recently, the suggested Paraguay tournament was called off by the organizers due to financial difficulty currently experienced by the country. I will call for a camp soon and try and get the players ready and raring to go for the World Cup next year.



3) How is the Youth of Australia compared to other countries from around the world?

I think we are up there with the rest of the world especially at U17 and U20 level. The lads are consistent in making quarter and semi-finals so it's safe to say that we are always at the top end of things. One difference we have compared to other top nations is the financial situation.

Other countries spend a lot of money in developing players, this will always be hard to match but I guess that makes the lads try harder in improving their game, it also makes us coaches more determined to carry out our duties in developing them.

Overall, we have shown great success through producing quality players overseas, and it only gets better as time goes on.

4) What are your thoughts on the current FIFA rule that prohibits players under the age of 18 to play for an overseas club?

I think it's a good rule as it will help the players them-

selves develop in a more proper way. It gives us a chance to work with them more, and gives them the chance to play in the top flight of the National League getting that much needed experience.

The Southern has less teams and come end of the season, it's always a fight between South Melbourne and the Melbourne Knights. We are looking to restructuring that league in the next two-three years to give the

I think the hardest aspect would be not being able to see the young guys on a weekly basis. The U20's have a fair few players that are currently playing in the National League who I can see weekly, however there

means some change physically and mentally.

That is something we cannot help, but it is a deciding factor as to whether they be selected in the final squad or not.

9) Have you signed a new contract with Soccer Australia? If so what are the details?

I am in negotiations at this stage, and have proposed either a 3-4 year deal as head youth coach of Australia. I'm looking to finalizing this in the next few days or so.

10) Your former club South Melbourne have started to pull some results together, what are your thoughts on the state of the team at the moment?

I was really upset in seeing the side start in a bad way at the beginning of the National League season.

However, I think the guys have turned the corner and that's through the help of some of the experienced players at the club.

It's also good to see some good talent coming through the club, but one thing's for sure, it's a club that must always fair in the top four of the league.

I think with a good string of results, South Melbourne will be the dark horses of the National League.



Ange Postecoglou in his South Melbourne days as coach of the side.

It also makes my job easier in monitoring the younger players, and also gives me the much needed input whether to select the player for international duties.

However, there will always be some way in which overseas clubs will over ride this rule and it will only be time until people start to abuse it.

5) What is your opinion on the current National Youth League competitions?

Both competitions are completely different to each other and share different styles in the way the game is played. The Northern competition is the strongest of the two as it provides more teams also the majority of the institutes are involved.

lads a better competition to develop in.

6) Would you ever coach in the National League again?

It's always been a possibility, and if given the chance in years to come, yes I would love to coach a team in the National League or anywhere for that matter. I am really happy at this stage with my role as head youth coach of Australia, but I always miss the older players and the excitement of weekly matches.

7) What do you think of the current National League and its standard of football?

We are going through a transitional stage and therefore it's going to be tough to establish a top-notch competition straight away.

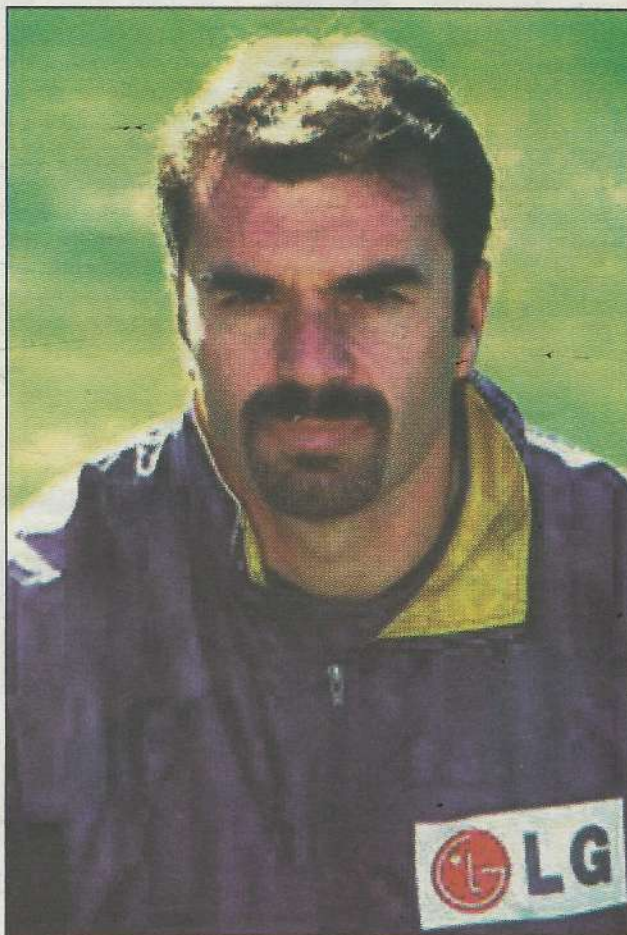
I've been impressed with the amount of youngsters making their debuts this year, and through time, these young lads will provide the National League with future stars. The standard of soccer is improving, and come two years down the track, we should see a strong competition set up.

8) What's the hardest aspect as a coach/selector in picking your National team squads?

are other players overseas, who I don't know, and would like to look at but don't have the time or chance to.

The new U17 squad is the toughest one as they are all youngsters playing in their respective youth league teams.

I rely on correspondence from many officials across Australia, monitoring the interested boys success. Also, not being able to see the boys on a weekly basis,



Ange Postecoglou: Head Youth Coach for Australia.



Ange Postecoglou shown here with his last U20 squad.



NIGERIA SACKS AMODU

Nigerian coach Shaibu Amodu has been sacked just 101 days ahead of the World Cup finals kick off, the country's soccer officials confirmed.

The Super Eagles finished third at the African Nations Cup in Mali, after losing in the semi-finals to fellow World Cup qualifier Senegal, which is believed to have cost Amodu his job.

There has been a huge public outcry for the team to be reorganised before the 2002 finals in Korea and Japan where the Nigerians are drawn in the so-

called group of death alongside Argentina, England and Sweden.

Amodu was in his second stint with the national team after leading the side from 1994 to 1997.

The 42-year-old began his latest spell in charge last April after Dutchman Jo Bonfrere was sacked in the middle of the World Cup qualifying campaign.

Nigeria's Ambassador for Sport John Fashanu told Sky Sports News: "The fans are demanding a foreign coach. I went for an indigenous coach last time but there aren't many indigenous coaches left with the necessary

experience or the respect of the players.

"There are names being bandied about. Ruud Gullit is someone I have a lot of respect for.

"I think they'll have to look for somebody who has European experience.

"You can't have a coach with just African experience because in the World Cup we'll be facing sides who are full of players who have European experience.

"But we'll speak to several different coaches and see if we can come up with the right formula."



With under 100 days till the World Cup Finals, the Super Eagles have parted with coach Shaibu Amodu.

South Korea unleashes mock hooligans to warn the real thing

South Korean police unleashed their own hooligans and terrorists to show how the foreign style will be handled when the World Cup is held in June.

Police conscripts dressed pointedly like English hooligans, some with a St George's flag painted on their faces, hurled firecrackers and staged mock battles with rival fans outside the Seoul World Cup stadium before riot police moved in to isolate troublemakers.

Anti-terrorist troops jumped from ropes attached to a helicopter to end a mock hostage taking on a bus.

Police chiefs who watched

the drills expressed confidence that real troublemakers, no matter what country they come from, will not be tempted during the 32-nation tournament in South Korea and Japan, which runs from May 31 to June 30.

"There is no use taking belated measures as far as terrorism and hooliganism are concerned," South Korea's national police chief Lee Pal-Ho said in a speech to hundreds of police and army troops who will take part in World Cup security.

"We must prevent this in advance in close cooperation with international agencies and authorities concerned," he added.

Units of riot police, Special Weapons Attack Team (SWAT) forces and anti-terrorist specialists took part in the drill dis-

playing martial art skills, bomb detection expertise and hostage rescues.

"Holding the World Cup will attract global attention and become a prime target for terrorist groups," Lee told his forces.

He said 1,200 security personnel had patrolling South Korea's 10 World Cup stadiums since January and reinforcements were already in place at 11 airports and ports.

"We are preparing to handle every type of emergency with 5,000 police deployed at 443 foreign missions and key facilities across the country. We have come here to clarify our firm will to secure a safe and peaceful World Cup.

South Korea has already ordered stringent measures such as no-fly zones over the stadiums during the World Cup. The country's organised have guaranteed it will be the "safest" tournament ever staged.



On top of leading England to the World Cup, David Beckham will soon be a father for the second time.

Third death after Argentine soccer violence

A boy of 14 died here on Thursday to take the death toll to three after a spate of football violence shook Argentina at the weekend.

Hospital sources would only reveal the boy's first name, Alejandro, though press reports say he was beaten unconscious with a bottle by supporters of

Gimnasia La Plata ahead of the tie against Estudiantes on Sunday.

Gustavo Rivero, 24, died on Sunday after undergoing emergency surgery for stab wounds suffered in fighting between supporters of Racing Club and Independiente and Lucas Fernandez, 22, died instantly when shot in the head outside a third division match.

Fernando Acuna, 19, was one of 13 who suffered gun shot wounds outside the Racing Club stadium in the south of Buenos Aires and was paralysed for life, doctors said.

Since the 1930s, 143 people have been killed as a result of violence surrounding Argentine football.

Fan injured in San Siro fall

An Inter Milan fan was seriously injured after he fell from the second tier of the San Siro stadium during Inter's 3-1 win over AEK Athens in the UEFA Cup fourth round, first leg tie on Thursday.

Eye witnesses said the supporter fell head first over a safety railing while celebrating Inter's third goal after 56 minutes, before crashing into plastic seating around 15 metres below.

Medical staff were quickly on

the scene and stretchered away the fan, who was suffering from an open wound to the head.

A stream of blood was left on the seating where the supporter had landed, indicating a heavy loss of blood.

A spokesman for Inter Milan said that the young fan had been taken to a nearby hospital but gave no details of his condition.

The incident happened at the north end of the stadium, whose second tier is the traditional home

to Inter supporters.

At the post-match news conference, Inter Milan coach Hector Cuper declined to comment on the result or the match.

"A serious incident like this involving one of our supporters makes the game unimportant to talk about," he said.

"We are all very shaken by what has happened and I don't want to talk about the match. All our thoughts are with our supporter."

Second child beckoning for Beckhams

Manchester United and England star David Beckham and his pop star wife Victoria are expecting their second child in September, it was announced Friday.

In a statement the couple said: "Brooklyn is also really looking forward to having a little brother or sister to play with." Their son Brooklyn was born in March 1999 and was named after the New York borough where he was conceived.

The couple added: "This year has been such an exciting year for us - England are in the World Cup finals, Victoria's had a second top 10 hit and now we are expect-

ing a new baby. It's fantastic.

John Glover, who recently took over management of the former Spice Girl said: "It is wonderful news and we are very pleased for them.

"Victoria will be continuing with her work and we are currently planning the promotion of her third single."

By coincidence David, 26, was signed up Thursday by a leading British retail chain to launch a children's range.

The couple's first child, who was born at a private hospital in London, is now possibly one of the most famous children in Britain.

He took a starring role at his parents' wedding just months after his birth and is regularly seen out with the couple, particularly at his father's matches.

Victoria, also 26, suffered terrible morning sickness during her first pregnancy as she undertook a world tour with the Spice Girls.

There had been fears Brooklyn's birth would have ended the band but they continued to perform and record. However, dwindling sales and the members' varied fortunes in solo careers seem to have put the dampers on their joint activities and as yet no reunion is planned.

Vieira agrees to Real switch

Arsenal and France star Patrick Vieira has agreed to join Spanish giants Real Madrid at the end of the season, according to sports daily Marca.

The 25-year-old gave his approval to a summer move to the Bernabeu at a secret meeting held at the Antiguo Convento Hotel, Boadilla, on January 14 - report the Madrid-based newspaper.

The player's friends from the France national team and current Real midfielders, Claude Makelele and Zinedine Zidane, were also said to be present as witnesses.

Meanwhile, Real have also reportedly requested a meeting with Arsenal officials to resolve the deal before the World Cup finals get underway in June but, at the moment, have not received a reply from the north London club.

The Merengues are offering the inspirational Gunners midfielder a five-year deal worth £3.75million per season.

Negotiations are apparently being conducted by Santos Márquez, a business associate of Vieira's agent Marc Roger, who also handled the transfers of Makelele and former Arsenal striker Nicolas Anelka to Real.



French star Patrick Vieira is set to join real Madrid at end of the season.

Trezeguet staying put



Despite meeting with Arsenal officials David Trezeguet will not leave Turin.

French international striker David Trezeguet has insisted that he has no intention of leaving Juventus for Arsenal despite his agent meeting Arsene Wenger last week to discuss a move to Highbury.

Trezeguet, who joined the Turin club from Monaco after Euro 2000, says he is happy in the Serie A after scoring 16 goals in 22 league games this season. "In my opinion, I would like to stay at Juve, I feel great," he told Italian television programme Trocampa.

The 24-year-old played alongside Gunners striker Thierry Henry under Wenger at Monaco before following him to Juventus. But unlike Henry, Trezeguet has been a success in Italy. Henry struggled to settle in Serie A and

was sold to Arsenal in 1999.

"Maybe Henry feels better in England than here because he is a player that plays better in the bigger spaces," said Trezeguet.

"He arrived in Turin too young and at too delicate a stage in his development."

Trezeguet also revealed that he turned down the chance to join Inter Milan before the kick off of the current season and that before he signed for Juventus he almost joined Roma.

"The club (Inter) wanted to play (Christian) Vieri and me together but I am happy to have stayed in Turin," added Trezeguet.

"It is true that in 1998 I was close to signing for Roma. I met (Francesco) Sensi and I gave him the go-ahead but Monaco did not let me go."

Di Matteo forced to hang up boots

By Daniel Kuziow.

Chelsea midfielder Roberto Di Matteo has been forced to quit the game after failing to recover from a triple leg fracture.

The 31-year-old former Italian international has decided to end his professional career after being injured in the Blues, UEFA Cup defeat against St Gallen in September 2000.

After fighting for the last 18 months to regain full fitness Di Matteo confessed: "I have worked hard to try and get back but unfortunately I am still experiencing problems and I have had to face up

to the sad decision that my playing days are over".

Chelsea managing director Colin Hutchinson expressed regret for Di Matteo saying: "He has endured a series of painful operations and slogged away on the training ground, but cruelly the injury has beaten him"

"He will rightly have a prominent place in Chelsea's history."

Di Matteo joined Chelsea from Lazio in 1996 and famously scored Wembley's fastest goal after just 43 seconds in the 1997 FA Cup victory over Middlesbrough and made 175 appearances, scoring 26 goals.



After suffering a triple leg fracture Roberto Di Matteo has been forced to retire.

Thirty-four fans have been arrested after violent clashes between Rangers and Feyenoord supporters during the UEFA Cup tie at Ibrox.

Those arrested will front Glasgow Sheriff Court on various charges after the violent scenes Rangers operations executive Laurence McIntyre described as the "worst" he'd seen in nine years.

"I had a brief look at a film, and quite clearly we had a situation where there was a sudden surge of Dutch fans towards the home fans without any provocation at all," McIntyre said.

With the first leg of the UEFA Cup fourth round tie finishing in a 1-1 draw and the return leg scheduled for next week in Rotterdam, McIntyre has urged any fans not among the 2,500 already booked to travel not to make the trip.

Arrests mar clash



Rival fans clash at the UEFA Cup tie in Ibrox.

No Smoking Please, urge FIFA at this year's World Cup

By Daniel Kuziow.

FIFA plan to step up its anti-smoking efforts by holding its first tobacco-free World Cup with smoking at World Cup venues will be restricted to designated venues.

The opening of the Finals on May 31 in South Korea coincides with the world no-smoking day and FIFA will broad-

cast a brief anti-tobacco message as part of the international television coverage.

"Within FIFA we feel the time has come, not just to refuse tobacco sponsorship, which we have been doing since 1986, but to be active and start sending messages and use the popularity and the strength and the image of football to get this message across" said FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

One can never write-off Juventus. Just when things looked like going wrong for them, they get their act together and lead the Serie A table (after 23 rounds).

So what is their secret? Looking at the statistics, it is safe to say that it is a complete team.

They have scored more goals than any other club and only Roma have conceded less than them.

There is absolutely no doubt that their lethal attacking combination, of David Trezeguet and Alessandro Del Piero, has played a big part.

Their defence can boast the likes of Lilian Thuram, Mark Iuliano, Paolo Montero, Gianluca Pessotto and veteran, Ciro Ferrara. The sort of stuff that would make any opposition green with envy.

Their midfield is very handy too: Gianluca Zambrotta, Alessio Tacchinardi, Pavel Nedved and Edgar Davids. And, throw in the world's most expensive goalkeeper, Gianluigi Buffon, even though his early season form was somewhat suspect, and you have the complete picture. Well, almost.

Almost because they are marshalled by a tactician, Marcello Lippi, who has been their most successful coach since Giovanni Trapattoni departed the club some 16 years ago.

Lippi, along with Roma's maestro Fabio Capello, is the Serie A's leading coach. His success speaks for itself. Lippi was quoted as saying earlier in the season, when he returned to Juventus, that he: "felt very much the Juventus coach even when he has coached Inter".

Should Lippi win another Scudetto (league title) this year with Juventus, it would be his fourth at the club.

As mentioned in this column previously, he would then accomplish something that neither Arrigo Sacchi, Capello, nor Trapattoni could accomplish in Italy. A Scudetto in his second stint with the same club.

Sacchi and Capello at AC Milan, and Trapattoni at Juventus, were all failures in their second stints at their former clubs, after having enjoyed so much success there the first time around.

Once they left for a few years and then returned to the same club, it was never the same. The Scudetto eluded them all.

Under Lippi, Juventus won their last Scudetto in 1998. His record also boasts the Scudetto in '95 and '97, and second place in '96.

You can also throw in a Champions League title in '96, two more finals in '97 and '98, a Toyota Cup in '97, an Italian Cup in '95, Italian Supercups in '96 and '98, and a European Supercup in '97. All under Lippi.

When he left in 1998, and was replaced by Carlo Ancelotti, the trophy cabinet saw no more additions. Juventus are hungry for a title, especially the Scudetto and/or the Champions League, and if they play their cards right, they could well be on track for both, despite last week's 0-0 draw with Deportivo La Coruna.

There is nothing like a full strength Juventus. Real Madrid and Man Utd are very praiseworthy as well on the European stage, but for overall consistency and excellent results, Juventus still stands today as the best club side in world football.

◆◆◆◆

In the New Year the wheels have fallen off Chievo Verona. But only to a certain extent. How could anyone expect that a club, in their very first Serie A season, match it stride-for-stride with the big boys of Juventus, Inter, Roma etc.

A club that until 1986 was playing in the amateur ranks of football in their local region.

Chievo was only admitted to the Italian Fifth Division (Serie C2) in 1986 because another club (Bassano) was penalised points.

A club that claims to have officially existed since 1929, but under the name Chievo Verona only since 1990.

A club that only arrived in the Serie B for the first time in 1994. And, finally, a club that represents an area of approximately only 3,000 people.

Chievo is a miracle story if ever there was one. To have now provided, in striker Massimo Marazzina, their first ever-Italian international, is really beyond belief.

It is little wonder that reports are circulating that most of their players, and their coach Gigi Del Neri, will leave at the end of the season.

They were a team of no names, prior to the commencement of the season, but all that changed a while ago. Del Neri is said to be on his way to Parma.

Their president, Luca Campedelli, has virtually admitted that his little club will be powerless to stop the exodus. However, one thing is certain Chievo is going to be one very rich club at the end of the year.

ROMA 1 PERUGIA 0

Vincenzo Montella scored his first goal of the season as champions AS Roma defeated Perugia 1-0 Saturday to return to the top of the Italian first division for at least 24 hours.

Montella's second-half header was enough to separate the sides.

TORINO 2 JUVENTUS 2

Torino and Juventus shared a thrilling 2-2 draw in the Turin derby.

A goal in the last minute of normal time from Juve substitute Enzo Maresca ensured Juve avoided defeat but it was not enough to prevent Roma and Inter, both winners this weekend, from taking a one-point lead.

Second half-strikes from Marco Ferrante and French substitute Benoit Caulet had looked like giving Torino the spoils after French forward David Trezeguet's early header for Juve.

INTER 3 UDINESE 2

Inter failed to shine but still beat Udinese 3-2 in a topsy-turvy match at the San Siro on Sunday afternoon.



Roma's Vincenzo Montella was outstanding in the win over Perugia.



Inter's Sergio Conceicao celebrates after scoring against Udinese.

Goals from prolific striker Christian Vieri, Nicola Ventola and Portuguese substitute Sergio Conceicao were sufficient for Inter despite Udinese goals from Roberto Muzzi and Giampiero Pinzi.

CHIEVO 1 BRESCIA 1

Ten man Chievo were held 1-1 by Brescia which saw them slip to fifth, the lowest position they have occupied in a memorable debut season in Serie A.

Chievo took the lead through Bernardo Corradi but the sending-off of Chievo defender Nicola Legrottaglie complicated matters and Brescia duly levelled through Luca Toni.

VENEZIA 1 AC MILAN 4

AC Milan ended a dismal recent run with a convincing 4-1 thrashing of bottom club Venezia.

The Venice-based outfit equalised through Filippo Maniero after Milan's opener by Georgian midfielder Kakha Kaladze.

But two second-half goals from Spanish substitute Javi Moreno and one from Romanian midfielder Cosmin Contra gave beleaguered Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti his first Serie A win since January 5.

PIACENZA 2 PARMA 3

Parma had to hang on for a 3-2 win at Piacenza.

Marco Di Vaio gave Parma a first-half lead with his 16th goal of the season and just before the interval French midfielder Johan Micoud doubled the lead.

Another Frenchman Alain Boghossian headed a third for Parma in the second half but then Piacenza forward Dario Hubner scored two late goals - the second a penalty - to stretch his lead at the top of the goalscoring charts with 19 in all.

ATLANTA 0 LAZIO 1

Lazio's bleak run ended at Bergamo where a late goal from Czech winger Karel Poborsky sealed a 1-0 win over Atalanta.

"This victory allows us to pick up our morale and if we continue on this track we can think of other objectives like the Champions League," Lazio coach Alberto Zaccheroni said.

FIorentina 1 LECCE 2

Nuno Gomes was the target of a hate mob as Fiorentina players were attacked and spat at by their own supporters after a 2-1 defeat to Lecce virtually condemned the Florence club to relegation.

Italian international midfielder Angelo Di Livio scored a fine opener for Fiorentina but Croatian striker Davor Vugrinec and Uruguayan Javier Chevanton struck for the southerners.

Even then Brazilian Adriano missed what would have been an equalising penalty and Di Livio's tears at the final whistle summed up the club's plight.

BOLOGNA 2 VERONA 1

Bologna grabbed sole control of fourth place with a last-gasp winner by Argentinian Julio Cruz giving them a 2-1 home win over Verona.

Bologna's outstanding run looked

like ending when visitors Verona took a 75th-minute lead through Alberto Gilardino but Salvatore Fresi and Cruz ensured three points for the hosts despite the late sending off of Marcello Castellini.

"We dominated the game but Verona were gutsy and when they scored I feared the worst," Bologna coach Francesco Guidolin said.

This Week

SUNDAY 3 MARCH

AC Milan v Inter Milan
Brescia v Piacenza
Juventus v Bologna
Lazio v Venezia
Lecce v Roma
Parma v Chievo
Perugia v Torino
Udinese v Atalanta
Verona v Fiorentina

Roma 1 Perugia 0, Atalanta 0 Lazio 1, Bologna 2 Verona 1, Chievo 1 Brescia 1, Fiorentina 1 Lecce 2, Internazionale 3 Udinese 2, Piacenza 2 Parma 2, Venezia 1 AC Milan 4, Torino 2 Juventus 2.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1. Internazionale	24	14	7	3	43	21	22	49
2. Roma	24	13	10	1	34	14	20	49
3. Juventus	24	13	9	2	45	18	27	48
4. Bologna	24	12	4	8	26	24	2	40
5. Chievo	24	11	6	7	42	35	7	39
6. AC Milan	24	9	11	4	35	25	10	38
7. Lazio	24	8	9	7	30	20	10	33
8. Verona	24	9	5	10	32	37	-5	32
9. Torino	24	8	7	9	27	28	-1	31
10. Parma	24	8	6	10	32	35	-3	30
11. Perugia	24	8	6	10	26	32	-6	30
12. Piacenza	24	8	5	11	34	32	2	29
13. Udinese	24	8	5	11	33	39	-6	29
14. Atalanta	24	8	5	11	27	36	-9	29
15. Brescia	24	5	10	9	26	38	-12	25
16. Lecce	24	5	8	11	24	36	-12	23
17. Fiorentina	24	4	5	15	24	48	-24	17
18. Venezia	24	3	6	15	21	43	-22	15



Anelka salvages point in Merseyside Derby



Liverpool's Vladimir Smicer and Everton's Scott Gemmill do battle in the 166th Merseyside derby that ended 1-1.

MAN UTD 1 ASTON VILLA 0

Leaders Manchester United preserved their lead at the top of the English Premiership on Saturday.

United took all three points in their lunch-time clash with Aston Villa at Old Trafford thanks to a 50th-minute goal from Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, his 19th league goal of the season.

Manchester United captain Roy Keane, who made his 350th appearance for the Red Devils, was not surprised that the one goal decided his team's victory over Villa.

"These are always tight games. There are never many goals in it, and we are delighted to win," he said.

LIVERPOOL 1 EVERTON 1

Liverpool could have narrowed the gap with United to just two points with a win against Everton at Anfield, but were

stunned when a Tomasz Radzinski goal on 52 minutes gave the relegation-threatened Toffees a surprise lead.

But Reds' stand-in manager Phil Thompson brought on England international Emile Heskey as a third striker alongside Michael Owen and Nicolas Anelka, and the tactic paid off.

French star Anelka levelled the scores with his first goal for Liverpool since joining from Paris St Germain in December on 72 minutes, slotting home after neat interplay with Heskey, Owen and Danny Murphy.

ARSENAL 4 FULHAM 1

Arsene Wenger's in-form Arsenal moved into second place after they routed Fulham 4-1 at Highbury in a Gallic-flavoured goal feast where four Frenchman scored.

The Gunners took the lead on five minutes, Cameroon international

Lauren Mayer side-footing home a cross from Thierry Henry.

Fulham's record French signing Steve Marlet levelled the scores five minutes later but Arsenal's Patrick Vieira put the Gunners back in front on 15 minutes in a manic opening quarter of an hour.

Henry made it 3-1 for Arsenal on 38 minutes, adding his second four minutes after the break to complete a good day at the office for Wenger's men, who have a game in hand over leaders Manchester United.

LEICESTER 0 DERBY 3

At Filbert Street, a relegation Adogfight saw bottom club Leicester slip deeper into the mire with a 3-0 defeat against Derby.

Georgi Kinkladze scored the Rams' first goal, his deflected shot finding the net on 53 minutes before Belgian Branko Strupar added a second 11 minutes later. Substitute Lee Morris added the third.

The defeat leaves Leicester eight points adrift of second-bottom Derby, and Dave Bassett's Foxes now need a miracle to preserve their Premiership status.

WEST HAM 1 MIDDLESBROUGH 0

At Upton Park, a lone 76th minute goal from Frenchman Frederic Kanoute secured West Ham a 1-0 victory over Middlesbrough.

A Mark Schwarzer error resulted in the winner being scored.

The Aussie keeper came out of his area, but unfortunately he scuffed his clearance and Vladimir Labant pounced.

From just inside Boro's half, he picked out Kanoute, who volleyed home from 15 yards - with Schwarzer nowhere to be seen.

SOUTHAMPTON 0 BOLTON 0

Southampton and Bolton Wanderers shared a goalless draw.

The Saints had Rory Delap sent off for dissent late in the game as the home side was pegged back by struggling Bolton at St Mary's.

LEEDS 0 CHARLTON 0

Leeds United failed to win at Charlton at Elland Road as the match ended in a goalless draw.

Leeds manager David O'Leary was reluctant to criticize Robbie Fowler as the player who was signed for 11 millions pounds, squandered two real chances.

Leeds haven't won a match this year and have been unable to score in four of its last five matches.

SUNDERLAND 0 NEWCASTLE 1

Newcastle beat Sunderland 1-0 in their English Premiership match at the Stadium of Light on

Sunday, victory in the northeast derby taking Bobby Robson's side into second place.

Craig Bellamy's 53rd minute cross to the back post found Dabizas but somehow his shot was blocked by the left foot of Sunderland keeper Thomas Sorensen.

But Dabizas got the goal he and his team deserved 11 minutes later. Patrick Mboma conceded a free-kick out on the right. Laurent Robert's cross was flicked on by Alan Shearer and, with Mboma ball-watching, Dabizas headed home at the back post.

WORTHINGTON CUP FINAL BLACKBURN 2 TOTTENHAM 1

Blackburn Rovers won the English League Cup for the first time in their history with a 2-1 final win over Tottenham at the Millennium Stadium.

Goals from Matt Jansen and Andy Cole secured Rovers' first trophy since they lifted the Premiership title in 1995 with Cole completing the full set of domestic honours.

Underdogs Blackburn took the lead in the 25th minute. Keith Gillespie's speculative shot fell kindly to striker Jansen and from the centre of the box he put the ball through the legs of Tottenham goalkeeper Neil Sullivan.

However, eight minutes later Christian Ziege, who scored a penalty for Liverpool in their League Cup final shoot-out win over Birmingham last season, equalised for Tottenham.

Good work from striker Les Ferdinand on the right ended with him passing the ball across the face of the six-yard box and the German



Ruud Van Nistelrooy celebrates with Roy Keane in their 1-nil victory over Aston Villa.

international Ziege made no mistake. Spurs midfielder Gus Poyet came close to putting his team in the lead when his 60th minute curling shot from the edge of the box beat Friedel but rebounded off the angle of left post and crossbar.

And six minutes later his swerving shot from 18 yards out was well-parried by Friedel.

However, three minutes later it was Blackburn who went ahead.

Tottenham's 21-year-old defender Ledley King wanted three touches in his own box before clearing but lost possession and former Manchester United striker Cole pounced to put away the loose ball.

FIRST DIVISION

Leeds United 0 Charlton Athletic 0, Sunderland 0 Newcastle United 1, Arsenal 4 Fulham 1, Leicester City 0 Derby County 3, Liverpool 1 Everton 1, Southampton 0 Bolton Wanderers 0, West Ham United 1 Middlesbrough 0, Manchester Utd 1 Aston Villa 0.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pnt
1. Manchester Utd	28	18	3	7	67-35	57
2. Newcastle United	27	17	4	6	52-33	55
3. Arsenal	27	15	9	3	55-31	54
4. Liverpool	28	15	8	5	45-25	53
5. Chelsea	26	11	11	4	46-26	44
6. Leeds United	27	11	11	5	37-29	44
7. Aston Villa	27	9	11	7	32-30	38
8. Tottenham Hotspur	26	10	5	11	37-35	35
9. Fulham	27	8	11	8	27-29	35
10. Charlton Athletic	27	8	10	9	30-32	34
11. West Ham United	27	9	7	11	30-42	34
12. Middlesbrough	27	8	7	12	26-35	31
13. Southampton	27	9	4	14	31-41	31
14. Sunderland	27	8	7	12	21-31	31
15. Ipswich Town	26	8	6	12	34-40	30
16. Everton	27	7	8	12	27-34	29
17. Bolton Wanderers	27	6	11	10	30-42	29
18. Blackburn Rovers	26	6	7	13	32-36	25
19. Derby County	27	7	4	16	21-43	25
20. Leicester City	27	3	8	16	18-49	17

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1. Wolverhampton Wand.	35	21	7	7	30	70
2. Man City	33	20	5	8	32	65
3. West Bromwich Albion	35	19	6	10	19	63
4. Millwall	35	17	9	9	19	60
5. Burnley	34	17	9	8	10	60
6. Coventry City	35	18	5	12	18	59
7. Norwich	34	17	5	12	5	56
8. Crystal Palace	35	17	3	15	10	54
9. Birmingham City	33	15	8	10	11	53
10. Preston	34	13	11	10	5	50
11. Wimbledon	34	12	12	10	6	48
12. Gillingham	34	13	8	13	-1	47
13. Sheff Utd	35	11	13	11	-3	46
14. Watford	35	12	9	14	7	45
15. Nottm Forest	35	10	15	10	5	45
16. Bradford City	33	12	6	15	-2	42
17. Portsmouth	34	11	8	15	-10	41
18. Rotherham Utd	35	9	13	13	-10	40
19. Barnsley	35	8	13	14	-17	37
20. Sheff Wed	35	9	10	16	-17	37
21. Crewe Alexandra	32	9	8	15	-22	35
22. Walsall	35	8	8	19	-20	32
23. Grimsby Town	35	7	11	17	-27	32
24. Stockport	34	2	8	24	-48	14

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 Reading	35	21	6	8	23	69
2 Brighton	34	18	11	5	13	65
3 Brentford	34	17	8	9	23	59
4 Bristol City	34	17	8	9	19	59
5 Stoke City	35	16	10	9	17	58
6 Huddersfield Town	34	16	10	8	14	58
7 Cardiff City	35	15	11	9	11	56
8 Oldham Athletic	35	14	12	9	14	54
9 Wycombe Wanderers	34	14	11	9	6	53
10 Tranmere Rovers	33	14	10	9	13	52
11 QPR	35	14	10	11	8	52
12 Port Vale	35	15	7	13	1	52
13 Wigan Athletic	35	11	12	12	8	45
14 Colchester United	35	12	9	14	-5	45
15 Swindon Town	35	11	11	13	-9	44
16 Blackpool	34	10	12	12	-9	42
17 Chesterfield	33	10	10	13	-3	40
18 Peterborough United	34	10	9	15	0	39
19 Bury	35	9	9	17	-21	36
20 Bournemouth	34	8	9	17	-13	33
21 Northampton Town	34	9	5	20	-22	32
22 Wrexham	35	8	8	19	-29	32
23 Notts County	35	6	9	20	-24	27
24 Cambridge Utd	34	5	9	20	-35	24

THIS WEEK IN PREMIERSHIP

(SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND)

Aston Villa v West Ham

Bolton v Blackburn

Charlton v Chelsea

Fulham v Liverpool

Ipswich v Southampton

Middlesbrough v Leicester

Newcastle v Arsenal

Tottenham v Sunderland

Sunday 3rd March.

Derby v Man Utd

Everton v Leeds



Spanish Primera Liga

Valencia home win enough to keep them on top

Valencia went back to the top of the Spanish league after a comfortable win over Barcelona while Real Madrid and Deportivo La Coruna also won.

At the Mestalla, a goal either side of the break secured Valencia a 2-0 win over Barcelona.

Francisco Rufete gave the home side the lead in the 16th minute before Argentine Pablo Aimar doubled the advantage in the 62nd minute when he got on the end of a John Carew cross at the near post.

The three points lifted Valencia to 47 points while the Catalans remain on 43 points.

Real Madrid is just a point off the league leader after its 3-1 victory over Alaves at the Santiago Bernabeu.

The visiting outfit surprised the title favourite in just the sixth minute when Dutchman Richard Witschge opened the scoring with a headed goal from a Delfi Geli cross.

Real hit back on the stroke of half time with Guti grabbing the equaliser to send the teams into the interval on level terms.

Spanish international right back Michel Salgado waltzed past three players down the flanks before crossing expertly to Guti who made no mistake.

Second half goals from Spanish internationals Raul and Fernando Hierro sealed the points for the home side.

Raul - who was used as a second half substitute after recovering from injury - put his side ahead in the 61st minute with a brilliantly taken goal.

After being freed by Zinedine Zidane, Raul chipped the oncoming keeper before rounding him to recover the ball and stab it into the

back of the net.

Hierro converted from the penalty spot 11 minutes from time after Raul had been brought down by Geli.

Alaves has dropped well off the pace in 8th place with 39 points - after having led the league early in the new year.

A lone goal from Diego Tristan sealed Deportivo La Coruna a 1-0 won over Real Zaragoza at the Riazor.

The Spanish striking ace netted in the 20th minute as the home side held on to claim victory and move up to 44 points.

Real Betis moved up to third place in the Spanish title race with an emphatic 4-1 victory over their fellow championship challengers Celta Vigo. The rout started with a 27th minute penalty scored by Brazilian midfielder Denilson, after Dani Martin had been tripped in the box by Celta defender Fernando Caceres.

Eight minutes later, David Rivas put the final goal-scoring touch to a well worked move out of the midfield and Ito Alvarez got Betis' third, nine minutes after the break.

Edu got one back for Celta before Gabriel Amato finished off the goal spree from the penalty spot a minute before the whistle.

At the other end of the table, former Spanish national coach Javier Clemente got off to a good start in his bid to rescue bottom-placed Tenerife.

The Canary islanders got their first win in eight games by winning 3-1 over Osasuna, who had been the only undefeated Spanish first division club this year, with the hosts' goals coming from Alexis Suarez, Jordi Ocana and Ivan Ania.

Real Sociedad left the field with



Barcelona's Sergi and John Carew of Valencia do battle at the Mestalla Stadium.

the crowd whistling in derision after they threw away a two-goal lead and had to settle for a 2-2 draw with fellow strugglers Rayo Vallecano.

The San Sebastian club are in 17th position, one spot above the relegation zone, but Rayo will be happier with the rare away point - they have yet to win outside of Madrid this season - despite ending the day a place below their hosts.

Turkish midfielder Nihat Kahveci put Real Sociedad in front after just three minutes, finishing off a pass from Francisco De Pedro.

De Pedro again provided the service four minutes after the break for Luiz Alberto to head Real's second goal.

At that point, Real Sociedad looked to have all three points in their grasp, especially as Rayo had been reduced to ten men with the sending off of Bosnian striker Elvir Bolic just before half time.

However, Rayo realised they had

nothing to lose and threw everything into attack.

Pablo Sanz headed home a Michel Sanchez free kick just after the hour and Bolo Perez equalised after 71 minutes.

THIS WEEK

(Sunday, 3 March)

Alaves v Real Valladolid
Athletic Bilbao v Las Palmas
Barcelona v Malaga
Celta Vigo v Real Madrid
Osasuna v Real Sociedad
Rayo Vallecano v Real Mallorca
Real Zaragoza v Valencia
Sevilla v Deportivo La Coruna
Tenerife v Espanyol
Villarreal v Real Betis

Betis 4 Celta, Tenerife 3 Osasuna 1, Espanyol 3 Las Palmas 1, Valladolid 2 Athletic 0, Malaga 2 Villarreal 1, Mallorca 0 Sevilla 4, Real Sociedad 2 Rayo Vallecano 2, Valencia 2 Barcelona 0, Deportivo 1 Zaragoza 0, Real 3 Alaves 1.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pnt
1. Valencia	27	12	11	4	32-22	47
2. Real	27	13	7	7	52-31	46
3. Betis	27	12	9	6	31-23	45
4. Deportivo	27	13	5	9	40-33	44
5. Barcelona	27	12	7	8	42-25	43
6. Celta	27	10	12	5	43-31	42
7. Athletic	27	11	9	7	37-38	42
8. Alaves	27	12	3	12	25-26	39
9. Valladolid	27	11	6	10	30-39	39
10. Sevilla	27	10	8	9	43-31	38
11. Espanyol	27	10	7	10	34-40	37
12. Malaga	27	8	11	8	30-31	35
13. Osasuna	27	8	9	10	24-31	33
14. Villarreal	27	8	8	11	29-32	32
15. Zaragoza	27	9	5	13	26-38	32
16. Las Palmas	27	7	9	11	26-31	30
17. Real Sociedad	27	8	5	14	34-40	29
18. Rayo Vallecano	27	7	7	13	33-43	28
19. Mallorca	27	7	6	14	28-37	27
20. Tenerife	27	7	6	14	21-38	27



Second half substitute Raul scored to put Real 2-1 up against Alaves.

WORLD LEAGUES

DUTCH EREDIVISIE

PSV 4 Utrecht 0, RKC 3 AZ 2, Feyenoord 1 Twente 2, NAC 0 Ajax 1, Vitesse 1 Den Bosch 1, Roda 2 Willem II 0, Heerenveen v Fortuna - postponed, NEC v De Graafschap - postponed.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pnt
1. Ajax	23	15	4	4	50-25	49
2. PSV	24	14	4	6	53-26	46
3. Feyenoord	23	14	3	6	49-20	45
4. Heerenveen	23	12	6	5	41-16	42
5. Vitesse	24	10	9	5	27-25	39
6. NAC	24	11	5	8	40-38	38
7. Utrecht	24	9	7	8	43-38	34
8. RKC	24	10	4	10	33-28	34
9. AZ	24	8	5	11	28-30	29
10. NEC	23	8	5	10	21-38	29
11. Twente	24	6	10	8	31-32	28
12. De Graafschap	22	8	4	10	32-35	28
13. Willem II	24	6	10	8	35-41	28
14. Roda	24	8	4	12	24-35	28
15. Den Bosch	24	6	9	9	32-38	27
16. Groningen	24	7	4	13	30-47	25
17. Sparta	24	4	10	10	24-49	22
18. Fortuna	22	2	5	15	20-51	11

BELGIAN EERSTEKLASSE

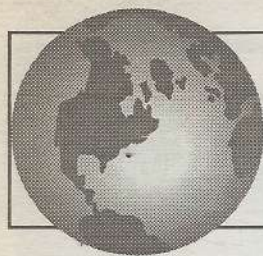
Genk 3 Brugge 2, Westerlo 4 RWDM 0, Lierse 1 Germinal 1, Anderlecht 3 Aalst 1, Beveren 1 Charleroi 1, Lokeren 1 Standard 1, Mouscron 3 Sint-Truiden 0, Antwerp 3 Lommel 3, La Louviere 3 Gent 1.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pnt
1. Brugge	24	17	1	6	57-29	52
2. Genk	23	14	8	1	65-32	50
3. Anderlecht	23	14	6	3	54-25	48
4. Lokeren	24	12	7	5	35-23	43
5. Gent	24	12	7	5	42-34	43
6. Standard	23	12	6	5	43-28	42
7. Mouscron	24	12	3	9	50-30	39
8. Germinal	23	8	9	6	44-33	33
9. Sint-Truiden	24	9	4	11	33-36	31
10. Westerlo	24	8	5	11	42-45	29
11. Charleroi	24	8	5	11	24-44	29
12. Lommel	24	7	7	10	38-43	28
13. RWDM	24	7	4	13	31-45	25
14. La Louviere	24	5	8	11	28-45	23
15. Lierse	24	5	7	12	36-46	22
16. Antwerp	24	5	7	12	35-47	22
17. Aalst	24	4	4	16	19-54	16
18. Beveren	24	2	8	14	25-62	14

FRENCH CHAMPIONAT

Lille 2 Olympique (M) 0, Sochaux 2 Olympique (L) 1, Auxerre 2 Nantes 1, Lorient 1 Troyes 0, Metz 1 Bordeaux 2, Monaco 3 Guingamp 1, Paris Saint Germain 3 Sedan 0, Rennes 2 Bastia 1, Montpellier 1 Lens 2.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pnt
1. Lens	26	16	7	3	43-18	55
2. Olympique (L)	27	15	5	7	54-29	50
3. Auxerre	25	13	9	3	34-22	48
4. Paris Saint Germain	27	11	12	4	35-20	45
5. Lille	26	11	9	6	31-24	42
6. Bordeaux	26	11	8	7	27-21	41
7. Troyes	26	10	6	10	32-30	36
8. Monaco	27	9	8	10	30-30	35
9. Sochaux	27	9	8	10	34-36	35
10. Olympique (M)	27	8	9	10	25-31	33
11. Montpellier	27	7	11	9	23-24	32
12. Bastia	27	9	4	14	29-37	31
13. Nantes	27	8	5	14	25-34	29
14. Rennes	27	7	8	12	28-40	29
15. Sedan	25	6	10	9	26-29	28
16. Lorient	27	7	6	14	36-52	27
17. Guingamp	27	6	8	13	25-45	26



SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Replays needed
as Cup ties end
in draws

Both Scottish Cup quarter finals ended 2-2 with replays needed to end the stalemate.

Premier League outfit Dundee United was held by first division Ayr United, which twice came from behind to earn a draw.

Scott Crabbe levelled David Winters' early opener before Craig Easton restored the home side's advantage - all early on.

But Pat McGinlay ensured the replay with a header 17 minutes from time.

Meanwhile, division one sides Partick and Inverness Caledonian Thistle shared an identical scoreline at Firhill.

The home side having to come back from a goal down twice to stay in the competition.

It took a cracking Scott Paterson volley with just six minutes left to keep it in it.

Two goals from Derek Wyness had put Inverness in control.

He scored the only goal of the first half and put his side back in front just three minutes after Martin Hardie's 58th minute equaliser.

Rangers eased into the semi-finals of the Scottish Cup with a 6-0 thrashing of Second Division part-timers Forfar Athletic at Station Park on Sunday.

Billy Dodds grabbed a hat-trick for the Glasgow giants, Shota Arveladze netted twice and Andrei Kanchelskis also got his name on the scoresheet.

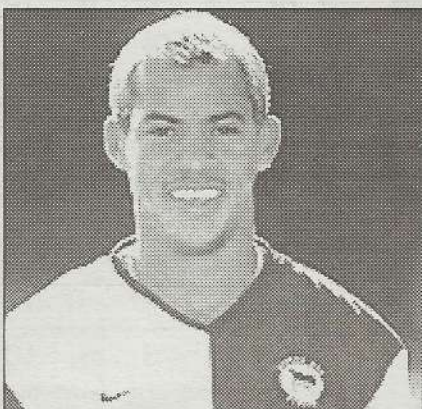
Ahead of Thursday night's UEFA Cup decider in Feyenoord, Rangers manager Alex McLeish left out Tore Andre Flo, Claudio Canigg.

All thoughts of an upset disappeared in the opening minute when Dodds scored and he completed his hat-trick with what was virtually the last kick of the game.



Rangers Barry Ferguson had a much easier task in their 6-0 FA Cup win over Second Division Forfar.

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Bayern smack
Cottbus as Hertha
rout Kaiserslautern

Marcelinho scored a brace in their big win over Kaiserslautern.

Bayern Munich breathed life back into their stuttering title challenge by thrashing Energie Cottbus 6-0 on Saturday but Kaiserslautern lost ground with a heavy 5-1 defeat by Hertha Berlin.

Reigning champions Bayern banished memories of their poor start to 2002 as they crushed the east Germans in the Olympic Stadium, with Claudio Pizarro and Mehmet Scholl weighing in with two goals each while Giovane Elber and a Stefan Effenberg penalty provided the other goals.

But with Schalke 04 beating SC Freiburg 3-0 to move into third, Bayern stay in fifth but are only four points off the top spot.

Andreas Brehme's Kaiserslautern side had a nightmarish match in the capital, as Berlin's Brazilian star Marcelinho grabbed two goals, as did Michael Preetz, and Bart Goor completed the scoring, while Kaiserslautern replied through Miroslav Klose.

Brehme brushed off the defeat, saying: "It was no one's fault, this sort of thing can happen to anyone now and again."

But the win continued Berlin's drastic improvement in form since new coach Falke Gotz took over from the sacked Jurgen Rober earlier this month.

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld was delighted that his side's domination allowed him to substitute key players for Tuesday's Champions League clash with Boavista.

"Our aim was an early lead and after that the spell was broken. Our 3-0 lead at half-time gave us a comfortable cushion and I was able to rest Effenberg and Scholl for the Boavista match."

Pizarro opened the scoring with a superb flying header in the 15th minute and created the second after he was felled in the penalty area by Jorg Scherbe, allowing Effenberg to hammer the penalty past goalkeeper Tomislav Piplica.

Scholl, a powerful presence in midfield, added the third on the stroke of half time and grabbed his second and Bayern's fourth goal three minutes after the break.

Bayern Munich 6 Energie Cottbus 0, Hansa Rostock 1 Stuttgart 1, Hertha Berlin 5 Kaiserslautern 1, FC Nuremberg 2 FC Cologne 0, Schalke 04 3 Freiburg 0, St Pauli 1 Borussia Monchengladbach 1, Wolfsburg 1 1860 Munich 3, Bayer Leverkusen 4 Borussia Dortmund 0, Werder Bremen 0 Hamburg 1

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
Bayer Leverkusen	24	15	4	5	28	49
Borussia Dortmund	24	14	6	4	20	48
Schalke 04	24	13	6	5	23	45
Kaiserslautern	24	14	3	7	34	45
Bayern Munich	24	13	5	6	19	44
Hertha Berlin	24	12	6	6	28	42
Werder Bremen	24	12	4	8	27	40
1860 Munich	24	11	3	10	39	36
Stuttgart	24	9	8	7	26	35
Wolfsburg	24	8	6	10	36	30
Hamburg	24	8	6	10	37	30
Hansa Rostock	24	7	5	12	33	26
FC Nuremberg	24	7	4	13	40	25
B. M'gladbach	24	5	9	10	37	24
Freiburg	24	5	8	11	40	23
Energie Cottbus	24	6	5	13	44	23
St Pauli	24	3	8	13	46	17

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

AEK stay top
while Olympiakos
move to second

AEK stayed top of the Greek League after putting injury worries aside to defeat lowly Ethnikos Asteras 1-0.

The goal came from Vassilis Lakis four minutes before the interval.

The bad news for the Athens club is the injuries to Vassilis Tsartas and Akis Zikos, who are both considered doubtful for the upcoming Uefa Cup second-leg against Internazionale.

Olympiakos moved up to second place in the table with a well deserved victory at Ionikos.

The Piraeus side's dominant performance was rewarded with second half goals by Stelios Yannakopoulos and Alekos Alexandris.

Adding to Ionikos' misery is the serious injury to Nasimientos Zosimar, who was rushed to hospital with respiratory trouble following an aerial collision with fellow Brazilian Jose Ze Elias.

Panathinaikos chose to rest eight key players for their match at bottom placed Panahaiki and payed the price dropping two valuable points in a goalless draw.

The visitors dominated for most of the game but were denied by poor finishing and the well organised defensive formation of the hosts.

Surprise-package Xanthi continue to impress, staying well within the title race following a 1-0 victory against troubled Aris. The only goal came from a spectacular overhead kick by Vaggelis Kaounos 16 minutes into the game.

PAOK and Panionios shared the spoils in an exciting match at Nea Smirni. The home side took the lead with a powerful free kick by Kareem Mouzaoui in the 5th minute, but Giasemis Giasemakis put PAOK back on level terms only ten minutes later.

OFI revived their Uefa Cup qualification dream with an important victory at Liosia against Akrotiris courtesy of two goals by Roland Gomez.

The Costa Rica striker returned after a month's long absence for international duties and showed just how vital he is to the Cretan side with strikes in the 7th and 19th minutes. The hosts only reply came from defender Lazaros Semos.

Aegaleo put an end to Iraklis' recent impressive run beating them 2-1 and strengthening their position in the relegation battle.

The home side were in control throughout the match but left sealing victory to the last 15 minutes with goals from Tasos Agritis and Nikos Nikopoulos.

The visitors' only reply was a close range strike by Giorgos Nassiopoulos in injury time.



Olympiakos striker Alekos Alexandris shown celebrating the sides second goal that sunk Ionikos.

Akrotiris 1 OFI Crete 2, Aigaleo 2 Iraklis 1, AEK Athens 1 Ethnikos Astir 0, Xanthi 1 Aris Salonika 0, Panionios 1 PAOK Salonika 1, Ionikos 0 Olympiakos 2, Panahaiki 0 Panathinaikos 0

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
AEK Athens	17	12	1	4	40	37
Olympiakos	17	10	5	2	40	35
Panathinaikos	17	10	4	3	32	34
Xanthi	17	9	5	3	27	32
PAOK Salonika	17	9	5	3	34	32
OFI Crete	17	7	4	6	20	25
Iraklis	17	6	6	5	21	24
Aris Salonika	17	6	5	6	18	23
Panionios	17	5	6	6	21	25
Aigaleo	17	4	3	10	19	33
Ionikos	17	3	5	9	12	31
Ethnikos Astir	16	3	4	9	13	22
Akrotiris	16	2	3	11	14	25
Panahaiki	17	1	6	10	15	38

WORLD LEAGUES

CROATIAN DIVISION

Pomorac 1 Osijek 0, Sibenik 4-0 Dinamo Zagreb 0, Cibalia 2 Cakovec 0, Zadar 0 Kamen Ingrad 0, TSK 0 Hrvatski Dragovoljac 4, Marsonia 1 Slaven Belupo 1, Varteks Varazdin 0 Hajduk Split 0, NK Zagreb 3 Rijeka 0.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1 NK Zagreb	19	15	3	1	50	48
2. Varteks Varazdin	19	12	4	3	40	40
3. Hajduk Split	19	12	3	4	38	39
4. Dinamo Zagreb	19	11	4	4	29	37
5. Rijeka	19	9	3	7	27	30
6. Slaven Belupo	19	6	8	5	22	26
7. H. Dragovoljac	19	7	5	7	26	26
8. Cakovec	19	7	4	8	22	25
9. Pomorac	19	7	3	9	23	24
10. Marsonia	19	6	3	10	21	21
11. Osijek	19	6	2	11	25	20
12. Zadar	19	4	7	8	21	32
13. Cibalia	19	5	3	11	19	28
14. Kamen Ingrad	19	4	6	9	15	27
15. Sibenik	19	4	6	9	12	25
16. TSK	19	4	2	13	26	51

PORTUGUESE FIRST DIVISION

Vitoria Guimaraes 0 Sporting 1, Farense 1 Boavista 2, Porto 2 Beira Mar 3, Uniao Leiria 0 Varzim 1, Gil Vicente 1 Maritimo 1, Santa Clara 1 Salgueiros 1, Alverca 1 Benfica 3

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1 Sporting	24	16	5	3	52	53
2 Boavista	24	16	4	4	39	52
3 Porto	24	14	3	7	43	45
4 Benfica	24	12	9	3	45	45
5 Uniao Leiria	24	10	7	7	37	37
6 Maritimo	24	11	3	10	32	36
7 V Guimaraes	24	10	6	8	27	36
8 Belenenses	23	10	4	9	32	34
9 Santa Clara	24	9	7	8	24	34
10 Pacos Ferreira	23	7	9	7	28	30
11 Braga	23	7	8	8	27	29
12 Beira Mar	24	7	7	10	38	41
13 Gil Vicente	24	7	6	11	26	38
14 Salgueiros	24	6	6	12	21	46
15 Vitoria Setubal	23	5	6	12	24	30
16 Farense	24	5	5	14	19	38
17 Varzim	24	5	5	14	19	45
18 Alverca	24	5	4	15	26	47

AUSTRIAN FIRST DIVISION

Admira Wacker 0 FC Karnten 0, SY Ried 1 Sturm Graz 1, Tirol Innsbruck 4 SW Bregenz 1, Grazer AK 1 Austria Vienna 1, Rapid Vienna 1 Salzburg 0

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1 Tirol Innsbruck	22	17	3	2	45	54
2 Grazer AK	23	11	7	5	48	40
3 Sturm Graz	23	10	9	4	39	39
4 Salzburg	23	9	6	8	25	33
5 FC Karnten	22	9	6	7	25	33
6 Austria Vienna	22	6	8	8	27	26
7 SW Bregenz	23	6	7	10	29	49
8 Rapid Vienna	22	6	5	11	19	29
9 SV Ried	23	5	7	11	28	39
10 Admira Wacker	23	3	4	16	16	45

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

After Round 20	TOTAL							PTS	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	Bye	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
PERTH GLORY	18	13	4	1	2	39	16	43	9	7	2	0	18	6	9	6	2	1	21	10
NEWCASTLE UNITED	19	8	9	2	1	25	17	33	9	5	4	0	12	5	9	3	4	2	12	11
OLYMPIC SHARKS	18	9	3	6	2	26	14	30	9	5	3	1	13	4	9	4	0	5	13	8
BRISBANE STRIKERS	18	8	6	4	2	32	25	30	9	4	2	3	16	13	9	4	6	1	16	12
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	19	8	2	9	1	31	31	26	10	4	2	4	13	15	9	4	0	5	18	16
NORTHERN SPIRIT	19	7	5	7	1	26	30	26	10	4	2	4	12	16	9	3	3	3	14	14
PARRAMATTA POWER	19	7	4	8	1	20	22	25	10	5	1	4	12	10	9	2	3	4	8	12
SOUTH MELBOURNE	18	6	5	7	2	17	19	23	11	4	2	5	11	13	7	2	3	2	6	5
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	19	5	7	7	1	19	27	22	7	2	1	5	6	12	11	3	4	4	12	15
MARCONI STALLIONS	18	5	5	8	2	20	25	20	9	3	3	3	13	14	9	2	2	5	7	11
SYDNEY UNITED	19	5	4	10	1	22	30	19	10	1	3	6	11	20	9	5	1	3	11	10
ADELAIDE CITY	18	3	7	8	2	22	27	16	9	3	4	2	16	13	9	0	3	6	6	14
KINGZ FC	18	3	5	10	1	22	38	14	9	3	3	3	10	18	9	0	2	7	12	22

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE OLYMPIC SHARKS

0
3

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 2,871. Referee: E. Lennie.
Cautions: S Tunbridge (ACF) 27', A Kovacevic (ACF) 90'

Teams: **ADELAIDE CITY FORCE:** Godley, Kemp, Fyfe, Kovacevic, Pantelis, Veart, Vidmar, Moreira (Saric 77) Tunbridge, Rees, Goulding (Karlovic 46).
OLYMPIC SHARKS: Bolton, Laybutt, Wilson (Agius 46), Pondeljak, Halpin, North, Harris, Milicic (Augerinos 79), Packer, Ishida (Srhoj 64), Juric.

PARRAMATTA POWER SOUTH MELBOURNE

0
1

Venue: Parramatta Stadium. Crowd: 2,938. Referee: C. Diomis.
Cautions: F De Amicic (SM) 46', S Iosifidis (SM) 58'

Teams: **PARRAMATTA POWER:** Reddy, Barrett, Orlic, Tobin, O'Sullivan, Arambasic (Holman 65), Lapsansky, Brown, Fitzsimmons (Langdon 65), Buonavoglia, Eagleton.
SOUTH MELBOURNE: Petkovic, Iosifidis, De Amicis, Durakovic, Panopoulos, Coveny (Buljan 84), Trimboli (Sabljak 74), Sekulovski, Murdocca, Boutsianis.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Pablo Cardozo: Scored both Spirit goals and also became a contender for goal of the year with an amazing goal.

NEWCASTLE UNITED BRISBANE STRIKERS

1
1

Venue: Energy Australia Stadium. Crowd: 10,531. Referee: B. Hugo.
Cautions: A Roberts (NU) 78', M McKay (BS) 82'

Teams: **NEWCASTLE UNITED:** Beltrame, Roberts, Zoricich, Bingley (Wilson 90), Dodd, Tsekenis, Baillie, Blagojevic, Schirripa, Masi (McBreen 69), Middleby.
BRISBANE STRIKERS: Kearton, Alagich, Stefanutto, McKain, McLaren, Grierson (Baird 66), Rech, Foster, Carbone, McKay, Drake (Webber 71).

NORTHERN SPIRIT MARCONI STALLIONS

2
1

Venue: North Sydney Oval. Crowd: 3,051. Referee: S. Micallef.
Cautions: J Hutchinson (NS) 52', S Trajceviski (MS) 8', A Brosque (MS) 56', C Care (MS) 70', B Renaud (MS) 74.

Teams: **NORTHERN SPIRIT:** Henderson, Watts (Cartwright 82), Bell, Spencer, Trajkovski (McDermott 85), Thomas, Cervinski, Cardozo, Hutchinson, Stergiopoulos, Enes.
MARCONI STALLIONS: Turnbull, Beauchamp (Gibson 79), Costanzo, Care (Last 86), Renaud, Maisano, Bozinovski, Webb (Tome 73), Brownlie, Trajceviski, Brosque.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS PERTH GLORY

1
1

Venue: York Park, Launceston. Crowd: 5,324. Referee: M. Breeze.
Cautions: S Horvat (MK) 30', A Vargas (MK) 30', K Marusic (MK) 70', A Marth (MK) 73', J Harnwell (PG) 27'

Teams: **MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:** John, Rajher (Kiratzoglou 63), R Vargas, Ognenovski, Horvat, Marth, Marusic, Porter (Sulemani 52), Da Costa, A Vargas, De Jesus.
PERTH GLORY: Petkovic, Horsley, Harnwell, Deans, Miller, Maloney (Naven 87), Hassell, Junior, Mori, Pryce, Mirdja (Edwards 78).

SYDNEY UNITED WOLLONGONG WOLVES

1
2

Venue: Sydney United SC. Crowd: 3,062. Referee: P. Green.
Cautions: B Blake (WW) 26', B Farah (WW) 88'

Teams: **SYDNEY UNITED:** Knezevic, Savoca, Arrarte, Mendez, Deur, Genc (Talevski 46), Menapi, Bilokapic, Watkins (Santalab 59), Cindric (Cevenini 75), Sinozic.
WOLLONGONG WOLVES: Anastasiadis, Ceccoli, Stanton, Cervinski, Castro, Sekulovski (Farah 85), Anthopoulos, Huxley (Young 46), Blake, Wells, Sharland (Babic 68).

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
DAMIAN MORI	Perth Glory	14
FOSTER Paul	Brisbane Strikers	12
DESPOTOVSKI Bobby	Perth Glory	10
PORTER Joel	Melbourne Knights	10
MILICIC Ante	Olympic Sharks	10
CARDOZO Pablo	Northern Spirit	10
DA COSTA Toto	Melbourne Knights	9
RECH Fernando	Brisbane Strikers	9
URLOVIC Paul	Kingz FC	8

ROUND 21

FRIDAY MARCH 1

W'gong Wolves	vs	Olympic Sharks
Kingz FC	vs	Melbourne Knights
Newcastle Utd	vs	South Melbourne
Brisbane Strikers	vs	Adelaide City

SATURDAY MARCH 2

Marconi Stallions	vs	Parramatta Power
Perth Glory	vs	Northern Spirit
Sydney United - Bye		

BYE - KINGZ FC